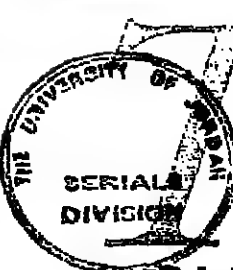


Wednesday May 27 1998

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Andorra FF 10	Hong Kong HK\$ 2.5	Poland Z 5.00
Australia A\$ 2.00	Indonesia Rp 1,500	Portugal Esc 200
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INTERNATIONAL

# The Guardian

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The story of the 'most dangerous woman in England'

## Doomed from the start

G2 with European weather



Mr President has arrived

## Lech Walesa in Croydon

Portrait, G2 pages 8-9



The way forward

## Swiss vote on genetic future

Society, G2 pages 12-13

# The victims have their day

## Veterans dismiss emperor's 'sorrow'

John Ezard

**D**ESPITE weeks of official efforts to spin, cajole and argue their case out of existence, 1,500 Far East prison camp victims had their angry day in London yesterday — and left an indelible image of shock and humiliation on the faces of Japanese veterans passing them in royal procession.

The Japanese Emperor Akihito was half-screened from them at the last moment by the thick glass of a closed carriage. But the baffled consternation of dignitaries travelling in open coaches to Buckingham Palace was uncontrollable.

They stared at the veterans' turned backs as a ripple of boos, V-signs and scattered cries of "Shame!" spread to other sections of the crowd of tens of thousands watching Akihito pass with the Queen along the Mall to Buckingham Palace.

At the palace, like earlier emperors, Akihito received a Garter ribbon for chivalry from the Queen. But last night he was, unlike previous emperors, still dogged by street protest.

Outside Westminster Abbey several hundred ex-Japanese prisoners of war and internees aged between 60 and over 80 again turned their backs as he arrived to lay a wreath on the grave of the Unknown Warrior. Many

wore white sashes and red gloves to drive home their view that the Japanese government will have blood on its hands until it pays compensation and apologises fully for wartime atrocities.

Younger demonstrators joined them. Mark Cribb, 29, from Reigate, Surrey, waved a placard saying "Third World debts aren't too old to count. But disgusting torture is buried under a Japanese car factory".

Steve Seane, also 29, from Redhill, Surrey, had designed a placard replying to Tony Blair's justification of the state visit. It asked: "How do you move forward without justice?"

Later, facing a further two days of demonstrations in Britain, Akihito delivered a speech which his aides described as "a very big step" — an expression of feeling which might well be unique in Japanese history.

Addressing a state banquet at Buckingham Palace last night, he said: "It truly saddens me that the relationship so nurtured between our two countries should have been marred by the second world war."

"The Empress and I can never forget the many kinds of suffering so many people have undergone because of that war."

"At the thought of the scars of war that they bear, our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and pain."

"All through our visit here, this thought will never leave



War-time prisoners of the Japanese turn away from the coach carrying Emperor Akihito and the Queen along The Mall

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL VICENTE

our minds. We sincerely hope that such a history will never be repeated between our two nations."

In a warm reply to him, the Queen spoke of a conflict with memories which still caused pain today. But these memories had also acted "as a spur to reconciliation."

After hearing a draft of the emperor's speech, Martyo Day, the solicitor arguing the

veterans' compensation claim, said: "It goes no further than the expressions of regret we have already had."

"Our primary interest as regards an apology is getting a proper one from the Japanese government and prime minister. We welcome the emperor's sentiments but they don't take us any further. The demonstrations will go on."

Today's protests centre on

an industrialists' lunch for Akihito at Cardiff Castle.

Describing yesterday's events in the Mall, Arthur Titherington, 78, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, said: "The impact was absolutely incredible. There is no way we are going to let the momentum go."

The Mall protest came at the climax of a state welcome

on a rare scale of pageantry. It involved 1,000 troops, a 42-gun salute, a 62-gun salute, and the bands of four Foot Guard regiments. Japanese embassy officials distributed Japanese and British flags to sightseers.

The emperor was due to ride with the Queen in an open laodau, which was changed late in the schedule to a closed carriage. While

this followed a rain shower, it had the extra advantage of giving Akihito a glass screen. He passed the demonstration with no noticeable reaction.

But the full brunt of it was taken by passengers in two laodaus behind. They included the emperor's grand steward, Sadame Makamura, his grand chamberlain, Makoto Watanabe, and the ambassador in London, Sa-

'It truly saddens me that the relationship so nurtured between our two countries should have been marred by the second world war'

Emperor Akihito

## Excuse me, which way is Blackpool?

### Race stopped after cyclists pedal into a dead end

William Fotheringham

**T**HE ProTour, Britain's most prestigious cycle race, turned into the Tour de Brierfield yesterday. Direction arrows went missing, and the main field and caravan in the round Britain event — 90 cyclists, 40 following cars, and some 20 motorcycle marshalls — disappeared into the middle of a small town somewhere between Burnley and Nelson, Lancashire.

About half the 116 miles of the stage from Manchester to Blackpool had been covered when the men from the Pro got lost.

"We turned right at some traffic lights where we should have gone straight ahead," said leading British cyclist Matt Stephens. "The roads just got narrower and narrower, and we went round the back of some shops into a car park. It was a dead end so we thought we'd better stop."

The result was less a miniature version of the Tour de France than a two-



ProTour riders and staff discussing the way to go yesterday

wheeled rerun of the charge of the light brigade. There was chaos as the mile-long cavalcade attempted to find their way back to the course.

"There were lost riders and their cars doing a circuit race of the town centre, with pedestrians leaping out the way," said the manager of the Scottish team, Robert Millar. "We were going down streets to T-junctions and we'd see riders and cars going across in front of us — in

both directions." The South African, New Zealand and Australian team cars disappeared the wrong way down a one-way system and were last seen heading westwards, direction Clitheroe.

"I saw a motorbike marshal coming towards me and thought 'beauty, he'll tell me where to go,'" said Australian manager Brian Stephens. "His first words were 'where am I?'"

Once the cavalcade had turned itself around, with

all the finesse of an oil-tanker performing a U-turn, and the judges had worked out precisely where they all were a different problem arose.

Out on the fells of the Trough of Bowland, the five leaders of the race and their smaller cavalcade had ploughed on in blissful ignorance while the 90 who had been chasing them disappeared into the East Lancashire Triangle.

They had to be stopped, because the race rules in multi-day events specify that if riders finish more than a certain time behind the day's winner they are eliminated. The organisers had no choice, unless they wanted the field for today's 95-mile stage to be reduced to five.

The race referee spent several miles leaning out of his car pleading with the quintet to slow down before they stopped.

After a half-hour halt they sprinted down off the fells and into Blackpool where the finish line had been positioned with curious precision. The chequered flag fell in front of the Casino, where "master magician Richard De Vere" was offering "a magical mystery". He could so easily have added the word ProTour.

Your report, page 14

## Terror swoop as World Cup nears

Jon Hestley in Paris and Ian Traynor in Bonn

**T**WO weeks before the World Cup kick-off, thousands of police swooped yesterday on suspected Islamic terrorist networks across Europe, detaining nearly 80 people in five countries in one of the biggest coordinated anti-terror operations ever mounted on the continent.

Police in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Switzerland also seized fake documents, computer disks, video cassettes and Islamic fundamentalist tracts in synchronised raids in some 15 different cities including Paris, Marseille, Brussels, Zurich and Cologne.

The crackdown, aimed at warding off any threat of terrorist violence during the month-long tournament that begins June 10, was spearheaded by the French anti-terrorist judge, Jean-Louis Brugiere, and planned at meetings in Paris last week, French police sources said.

France's interior ministry said the operation was launched after several months of close surveillance led police to "suspect the preparation of terrorist activity in the run-up to the World

Cup". It was aimed mainly at "dismantling the extremist dissident networks of the GIA" or Islamic Armed Group, Algeria's most radical and violent terrorist organisation.

None of those detained — mostly of Algerian origin but also from Morocco, Tunisia and France — was officially identified. But a Paris police source said Abdelhak Khinal and Omar Salhi, thought to be the principal European lieutenants of a GIA factional leader, Hassan Hattab, were among 63 people held in 10 French cities.

Mr Hattab is believed to want to export Algeria's bloody armed conflict, which has cost some 65,000 lives since 1992, to Europe.

Over half a million foreign fans and 15 million French ticketholders will be travelling around the country between the competition's 10 different venues from June 10 to the final on July 12, and the event is expected to draw a cumulative worldwide television audience of 37 billion people.

Roland Jacquard, of the International Terrorism Observatory in Paris, said telephone tapping of the suspects returned to page 3, column 1

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## Tuberculosis deaths in females

South and South-east Asia	448,000
Sub-Saharan Africa	316,000
East Asia & Pacific	242,000
North Africa & Middle East	72,000
North & South America	66,000
Europe	54,000

- Over 900 million women infected with TB worldwide
- One million will die and 2.5 million will get sick from the disease this year
- TB is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age
- TB accounts for 9% of deaths worldwide among women aged 15-45

# TB - the biggest killer of young women

Sarah Bassley  
Health correspondent

**T**UBERCULOSIS is the single biggest infectious killer of young women worldwide. Over one million between the ages of 14 and 55 will die of it and 2.5 million will become ill from the disease this year alone, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

"Wives, mothers and wage

earners are being cut down in their prime and the world isn't noticing," said Paul Dolin of the WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme. "Yet the ripple effect on families, communities and economies will be felt long after a woman has died."

Women who become infected with the tuberculosis bacteria are more likely to develop the disease than men, but Paul Nunn, chief of the WHO's TB research unit in Geneva, said it was not clear

why. "It may be to do with pregnancy or hormonal changes. There are many theories, but none of them are very convincing." More research was needed, but it was even more important to ensure that specific needs of women were met in the control programme on the ground. There was evidence that in some parts of the world, women were not getting medical treatment when they developed TB.

"In parts of India, women

who are married are terrified of getting it. There is a risk of being rejected by the husband's family, usually by the mother-in-law," he said. Unmarried women feared they would not be able to get a husband if anybody knew they had the disease.

Women also tended to ignore their illness and carry on with their work in the home. Men got sympathy and lighter loads if they were ill, but women were expected to continue to fulfil all their

responsibilities towards the family and the home. Their time was not their own and they may not have access to cash to travel to a clinic.

India managed to find the money and organisation to mount a nuclear weapons programme but not a coherent strategy for controlling TB, he said. "India's TB control programme is a complete shambles," said Dr Nunn. "Some are making Herculean efforts, but they are defeated by the incompetence of civil

servants and poor infrastructure." Pakistan, which seemed to have "a disregard for the health of the population", was even worse, but Bangladesh was doing well.

An international meeting yesterday organised by the Nordic School of Public Health in Gothenburg, Sweden, was the first to address the gender issue in the control of TB, which now accounts for 9 per cent of women's deaths between 15 and 44 worldwide. It is a big-

ger killer than war (4 per cent), HIV (3 per cent) and heart disease (3 per cent). The WHO programme for TB control is now operating in 97 countries. Called DOTS (directly observed treatment, short course), it involves health and community workers recording patients swallowing their drugs and attempting to ensure they complete the course. But it is important the patient understands she must attend for six months.

The WHO has declared a global emergency over tuberculosis, because cases are rising even though at one time it was thought that the disease was on course for eradication. A particular worry now is Eastern Europe, where cases have risen by 25 per cent in two years.

Tuberculosis spreads through coughs and sneezes. "No one is safe from TB," said a WHO spokeswoman. It respects no national borders.



A family of street dwellers in Calcutta... 'India's TB control programme is a complete shambles,' said a WHO spokesman

PHOTOGRAPH: RODERICK JOHNSON

## Paisley turns wrath on 'foolish' queen

DUP leader has lost it says rival after 'parrot' jibe

John Mulholland  
Ireland correspondent

**A**LL THE old certainties are gone. But no one could have expected such a change in Northern Ireland, and so quickly. A fearsome attack on Her Majesty by her hitherto most loyal subject.

Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, owes his political allegiance to God and the Queen. He has never yet turned his ire on the Almighty, but the Queen was in his sights yesterday. Unionists were astonished.

Mr Paisley called the Queen the "parrot" of Tony Blair's Government. Worse, he went on to label her "foolish".

His attack prompted Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis to muse that the 72-year-old demagogue had "lost it".

Mr Paisley, who was launching his party's campaign for next month's assembly elections, was asked his opinion on the Queen's proposed visit to Northern Ireland.

She is also expected to go to Dublin, the first visit to the Irish Republic by a British monarch.

No one ever stopped Mr Paisley expressing his thoughts, and news of the jaunt was a heavy blow to those opposed to the Good Friday Agreement. Tougher even than the resounding referendum defeat.

Those against the deal had already struggled to explain their figurehead's telephone call to Mr Blair immediately after the deal was struck. The Queen had offered him her congratulations.

Mr Paisley retorted yesterday that she had no voice, if government, or worse, he went on to label her "foolish".

His attack prompted Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis to muse that the 72-year-old demagogue had "lost it".

Mr Paisley, who was launching his party's campaign for next month's assembly elections, was asked his opinion on the Queen's proposed visit to Northern Ireland.



Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, giving his verdict on the Queen in Belfast yesterday

of Northern Ireland will take kindly to it."

But they were hardly ecstatic over Mr Paisley's remarks. Mr Maginnis said: "Ian Paisley is losing it more and more as every day passes." Church leaders thought his comments un-

helpful. Buckingham Palace was steering clear of controversy. A spokesman said: "They are Mr Paisley's views and it's for him to offer any follow-up to them."

Downing Street also refused to comment. Meanwhile, there was disappoint-

ment yesterday for another MP opposed to the Good Friday Agreement.

Jeffrey Donaldson, seen as a future leader of the Ulster Unionists, was looking to be welcomed back into the fold after supporting the No campaign.

"To use the monarchy [to support the peace deal] is part of Labour policy to discredit the monarchy. She is very foolish. I don't think the people of Northern Ireland will take kindly to it"

Ian Paisley, on the Queen

But leading Ulster Unionists decided to refuse him permission to fight for a place in the assembly.

He was told that only the leader, David Trimble, and deputy leader, John Taylor, could hold seats at both Westminster and in the assembly.

## War a shocking spectacle in stunning show

### Review

Eddie Gibb

Carmen Funebre  
Cairngorm chairlift, near Aviemore

**F**INDING yourself in the Cairngorm mountains after dark can be a grim enough experience without a hunch of Polish actors lurking in the shadows to scare the bejesus out of you. Kicking off the Highland Festival — two weeks of folk music and theatre scattered across the sparsely populated northern reaches of Scotland — was Teatr Buro Podrozy, who performed their stunning show, Carme Funebre, more than 2,000 feet above sea level.

The company has toured throughout Europe, but it is unlikely it has played anywhere quite so forbidding.

Promenade productions involving pyrotechnics and other stunts borrowed from ower circus can often be a little bit frightening, mainly because you're never sure if the health and safety officer has inspected the site. Podrozy provide a theatrical experience which frightens its audience, not because you expect a lightning rig to topple over any minute but through the sheer intensity of the performance.

At some points you feel almost compelled to intervene, so believable are the scenes of violence and abuse. This is a piece about war. The brutalisation of former Yugoslavia was no doubt a major influence but Carme Funebre — which translates as Funeral Song — could be about anywhere, although there is something indefinably eastern European about it.

The audience appeared to have just returned from a hearty day in the hills in their fleeces and waterproofs, while the high-cheekboned Poles looked like refugees in thin jackets and shift dresses. This contrast added to the uncomfortable sense of watching people in real distress.

As if the mountainous elevation wasn't sufficient, Podrozy make cunning use of stunts. The audience forms a rectangle around the performance space into which stalked two masked warlords, standing well over 10 feet high, with breastplates and bull-whips. They manacled the audience looking for their victims — actors planted in the crowd — who were forced into the open and tormented by the still-meo with whips and kicks.

What followed was a series of scenes of battle, and its aftermath. One in particular, in which a group of great-coated soldiers humiliated a single girl by spitting red wine over her, neatly portraying the viciousness of an occupying army which uses rape as the ultimate degradation of the enemy. After the attack, the soldiers went round the audience showing them dog-eared photos of their sweet-

hearts. They made no connection between the girl back home and the one they had just abused, illustrating the dehumanising effect of war.

Carme Funebre is a stunning spectacle, which uses fire, traditional folk music and, of course, the stunts to great effect. As a spectator there is a desire to enjoy the skill of the performers on an aesthetic level, but the performance never allows you to forget the underlying violence.

With no conventional narrative and hardly any dialogue, Podrozy make an impact that is almost entirely emotional, and that emotion is shock.

Anyone who tries to tell you modern warfare is a sanitised business of smart bombs and collateral damage should be directed to Carme Funebre. The Highland Festival runs until 6 June.

## NatWest 'annual flexitime' seeks to scrap 35-hour week

Mark Atkinson  
Economics correspondent

**N**ATWEST is taking a leaf out of the continental book by planning to replace the 35-hour working week for its 15,000 front-office branch staff with a 1,826-hour working year.

The radical move, mirroring European-style approaches to flexible labour contracts designed to match working time to the peaks and troughs of production or customer demand, would mean loss of

overtime pay, particularly for Saturday working.

Although negotiations with NatWest are continuing, Alan Ainsworth, spokesman for the banking union BIFU, said: "We have not yet ruled out industrial action if the bank says it is not prepared to listen."

NatWest says annual hours employment contracts will enable the bank to match the ebb and flow of demand with the appropriate level of staff, improving the level of customer service.

A spokesman said there were also gains for employ-

ees, some of whom welcomed the opportunity to take time off in the week in exchange for working at weekends.

In some European countries, like Germany, employees can take off several weeks at a time if they have racked up sufficient hours worked.

While acknowledging that this is true as long as there is an element of choice for staff, BIFU says informal soundings of its members suggest the overwhelming majority are against being compelled to work on Saturdays, espe-

cially without the appropriate level of compensation.

"Clearly the idea of people being forced to work on Saturdays is the big issue," said Mr Ainsworth. Further talks between NatWest, BIFU and the Association are planned next month to try to resolve the dispute.

Once the negotiations are complete, BIFU will ballot its members to determine their views.

Annual hours contracts are becoming increasingly common in British firms. According to the Institute of Management, 17 per cent

of all UK firms, including household names such as BT and Eagle Star, now have them — up from 13 per cent two years ago.

The Confederation of British Industry says that 5 per cent of the UK workforce is covered by an annual hours contract, mainly in manufacturing, although they are expected to spread to service-based industries as well.

Such contracts are also widely used in Germany and are just about to be introduced by agreement in Italy.

An Institute of Manage-

ment policy adviser, Mark Hastings, said that annual hours contracts were an extension of flexitime, which used to be organised over periods of several months.

They were often introduced in response to demands by staff, who were keen to devise ways of combining work with parental responsibilities.

"In the early 1990s flexi-ability was about cutting costs."

"But in the late 1990s it is about responding to both customer, and, more importantly, employee needs," said Mr Hastings.

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## Ms Jones gets a TV soul sister



New York is getting into a frenzy for Britain's most celebrated diarist, and a spin-off is travelling the opposite way, reports Mark Tran

Helen Fielding is one of the funniest writers in Britain and Bridget Jones is a creation of comic genius Nick Hornby



The book that is getting an avalanche of US publicity and (top left) author Helen Fielding

**Bridget Jones:** 30-something. Works in publishing. Obsessed with being fat. Sleeps with her boss.

**Ally McBeal:** 20-something. Harvard Law School. Lawyer. Constantly fantasises about her ex-boyfriend and colleague.

**Similarities:** Insecure. Short skirts. Moan about the dearth of good single men.

**Differences:** Bridget smokes, gets drunk, has casual sex. More of a tough nut than clean-cut Ally.

**Bridget quote:** 'Oh God, why am I so unattractive.'

**Ally quote:** 'I want to change the world. I just want to get married first.'



Calista Flockhart as Ally McBeal in the series about to be shown on Channel 4

# US gears up for B-Day, the arrival of Bridget

THE hype for Bridget Jones' Diary is building with the force of a tidal wave days before the book reaches bookshops in America. June 1 has been dubbed B-Day, the day Helen Fielding's novel arrives in bookshops, with chocolate for the staff to build up a sense of occasion.

Ms Fielding is due to arrive on June 8 for a seven-city book tour, ready to conquer America through chat shows on TV and radio, following her phenomenal success in Britain, where her book has sold 1 million copies. "Who the devil is Bridget Jones?" the New York Post asked yesterday under a cartoon of a grumpy-looking woman, noting down her weight, cigarette in her mouth and a box of chocolates and a bottle of wine by her side. By next week, lots of Americans should know.

Viking Press believes that Bridget Jones will travel well and has already increased the book's print run. In the American press, Bridget Jones, chosen to head the Wall Street Journal's summer reading list and topping the Book of the Month Club list, is being called Britain's answer to Ally McBeal, a hit TV show about an attractive single lawyer, who shares her transatlantic soul sister's preoccupations about being single and being left on the shelf.

By a quirky coincidence, just as Bridget Jones is popping up on American shores, Ally McBeal, the latest production of Mary Tyler Moore, will make its debut in the UK on Channel 4 next week. The show, starring Calista Flockhart, has achieved cultural phenomenon status in the US. Newsweek recently held a roundtable to discuss the show's popularity. The Washington Post carried an article about groups of single women who get together on Monday evenings to watch the mini-skirted lawyer and her fantasies. The show's gimmick is the dramatisation of what goes on in Ally McBeal's head. In one episode, when her

ex-boyfriend colleague, now married to someone else, invites her for coffee, the audience sees the two of them wallowing in a giant cup of coffee. Women say they like Ally McBeal because they identify with her sense of insecurity, her feeling that she is in some sense an impostor in a man's world. But the series, shown on Monday evenings to watch the mini-skirted lawyer and her fantasies. The show's gimmick is the dramatisation of what goes on in Ally McBeal's head. In one episode, when her

within reason. The character is the brainchild of David Kelley, who wrote for LA Law and is married to Michelle Pfeiffer. If Viking is hoping that Bridget Jones, which took off from a newspaper column featuring an independent but insecure 30-something woman, will enjoy an Ally McBeal bounce, it should be delighted by yesterday's review in the New York Times by Michelle Kalkutani, the paper's main book reviewer. The whole review is a spoof, done in the form of a letter by Ally McBeal to her new pen pal Ms Jones.

"It's like really weird. It's... it's like we're playing into the same comic Zeitgeist. I mean here we are, these two virtual twins who like to wear short skirts: two babes, if I say so myself, with good legs, a good sense of humour and bad boyfriends," writes Ms Kalkutani. The Wall Street Journal last week described the buzz about the book as "more like a roar" and put Bridget Jones' Diary top of its summer reading list.

So even before Ms Fielding's arrival, her creation has become a publicist's dream come true. In another comp for the author, the US edition has been picked as a main selection for the Book of the Month Club — unusual for a first novel — and a film is already in development by the same team behind Four Weddings and a Funeral. Names like Kate Winslet, Minnie Driver and Gwyneth Paltrow are being mentioned as candidates to play Bridget Jones on the screen.

## DSS cracks £1.8m family benefit fraud

New rules will force welfare cheats to pay fines in drive to curb £5bn loss to revenue

Michael White  
Political Editor

SOCIAL security investigators have discovered a £1.8 million fraud committed by a single family, the social security minister, Frank Field, revealed yesterday as ministers announced that new civil penalties are going into force against welfare cheating. Members of the extended family, who cannot be named because they are on police bail awaiting charges, falsely claimed at least £200,000 in housing benefit and income support involving mortgages over which they had also defrauded building societies to the tune of £1.2 million, Mr Field said.

In a new drive to persuade voters — and penny-pinching Treasury ministers — that the Department of Social Security (DSS) is tackling fraud, Mr Field announced that those caught now face having to repay not only the stolen money, but also a 30 per cent "administrative penalty". The repayments are to be deducted from future benefits. "Criminal prosecution was until now the only sanction available to the DSS, apart from the recovery of the overpaid benefit," said Mr Field, who promised "to take tough action against organised fraud as well as smaller scale



'We are addressing the sustained attack the department is under from organised criminals' Frank Field (left)

benefit fraud". The surcharge will be levied on the family he cited, whether they face criminal prosecution or not. Mr Field, who has waged war against fraud for 20 years, has been told by Tony Blair that now is the time to replace rhetoric with real

reform in a notoriously difficult policy area. Historically Labour has been hostile to accusations by tabloid newspapers and the Conservatives — often exaggerated — about welfare fraud. Estimates of the cost vary, but fraud is reckoned to be

between £4 billion and £5 billion a year, on a DSS budget of £33 billion. But Labour MPs are now more willing to acknowledge collusion between landlord and tenant, employer and staff.

To improve techniques the DSS has funded a new fraud-busting operation, the London Organised Fraud Investigation Team (Lofit), now running local pilot schemes in the capital for the Association of London Government. They unearthed the £1.8 million fraud, some of whose perpetrators were found to have social security identities in both London and New York.

What Mr Field, Harriet Harman's deputy at the DSS, seeks to do is to create a system where benefit officials will be able to "read across" histories of families whose details are currently held in computerised compartments. Mr Field also wants better identity checks, starting with such basic improvements as

names and dates of birth being registered in full on ID forms, rather than in abbreviated style. The biggest immediate challenge the DSS faces is to design the Chancellor's new working families tax credit in ways that build in anti-fraud features from the start.

Further potential anti-fraud measures are under discussion, including increasing protection of National Insurance numbers. "We want to show that we are not obsessed with individual claimants, but are addressing the sustained attack the department is under from organised criminals," the minister said before going on a welfare roadshow visit to Edinburgh.

The task of government is to be vigilant and try to get counter-fraud techniques in front of where the able gangs are. It's important that it goes back into the system that a new age has started," he said.

## Recruitment of teachers 'near crisis point'

John Carvel  
Education Editor

A TEACHER recruitment crisis is threatening to play havoc with the Government's plans to cut class sizes and raise educational standards, head teachers warned yesterday.

Graduates were turning away from teaching as a career and nearly one-third of the 15,000 places for training as secondary school teachers would not be filled this autumn, said David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers.

Ministers wanted to reduce class sizes to a maximum of 30 for children aged five to seven, without worsening pupil-teacher ratios for other ages. They had not yet appreciated that would require a 10 per cent increase in the training programme for primary teachers.

"The recruitment crisis is a time bomb which threatens the Government's education policies. Good honours graduates are voting with their feet and seeking other jobs where the salaries, benefits and overall conditions of employment are more attractive," Mr Hart told the association's conference in Eastbourne.

Carole Whitty, head of Carlsbrook High School on the Isle of Wight, said it was becoming "extraordinarily difficult" to recruit teachers specialising in maths, technology, modern languages and English. There were par-

ticular problems in the inner-cities, rural areas and offshore islands. Teachers were also avoiding schools which had a poor inspection report from the Office for Standards in Education.

Given the choice between a poor appointment and a class with no teacher, heads are being forced to fill vacancies with what is available, sometimes from shortlists of just one, delegates heard.

Mick Brookes, head of Sherwood Junior School in Nottinghamshire, said schools were recruiting second best staff as an alternative to leaving pupils without a permanent class teacher.

The association's warnings were based on an analysis of teacher training vacancies by John Howson, an education consultant. He forecast that half the places for trainees specialising in maths would be unfilled this autumn, as would 85 per cent of the places for design and technology, 42 per cent for geography, 37 per cent for information technology, and 36 per cent for sciences.

To tempt more graduates into teaching, they should be paid while training on the same principle that applied in the police and armed services. Teacher trainees should earn £7,000 a year — half their starting salary — during their course, he said.

Mr Hart said there was also a crisis in recruitment of primary heads. A quarter of the positions advertised since September had not been filled.

## Sweep of terror suspects in World Cup run-up

continued from page 1

ted networks over the past two months has revealed "constant discussions" about transporting material. "The fear is that arms and explosives may have been hidden by members of GIA in France ahead of the championships," he said. "This was a preventive action."

While investigators emphasised that yesterday's raids were not linked to any known terrorist threat to the World Cup, the French government is deeply concerned that Algerian fundamentalists could be

tempted to take advantage of the competition to stage a repeat of the bombings that killed eight people and injured more than 170 in France in 1995.

A French court in February sentenced 36 admitted members of a GIA logistic support group to prison terms of up to 10 years in prison — although it established no formal link between those convicted and the 1995 bombings.

Fears of a possible attack have been raised by the discovery earlier this month in Paris of a bomb that police

said bore similarities to those used in 1995. British police earlier this month detained eight suspected Algerian Islamic guerrillas in London, but later played down a newspaper report that the men had planned to carry out bombings or shootings at the World Cup.

Led by anti-terrorist police, several hundred French police swooped yesterday on 43 different addresses on mainland France and in Corsica. While they found only one firearm and no explosives, the equivalent of

£90,000 in cash was seized as well as videotapes showing GIA training sessions and documents proclaiming the organisation's ideals.

In Germany, police mounted operations in the Bonn region, where two men were taken into custody pending extradition to France, and volumes of documents, computer equipment and videos were seized. The Federal Prosecutor's Office in Karlsruhe said that the raids on seven houses in Bonn and nearby Cologne had been timed to coincide with the

police actions in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy.

"The investigations are into Algerian citizens suspected of belonging to a group which provides explosives and logistical support to Islamic extremists in Algeria," a prosecutor's office statement said.

In Italy, "Operation Crusades" saw nine suspected militants arrested around Milan and a further 15 held for questioning based on phonecalls monitored by security agencies at the German end. The Carabinieri

paramilitary police found false documents and machinery to produce fake papers.

In Belgium, where eight GIA members were arrested in March, police raided about 10 addresses in Brussels and in the southern city of Charleroi and detained 10 suspects, the Public Prosecutor's Office in Brussels said.

In Bern, a Swiss Federal Police spokesman said "a large police operation" was underway outside Zurich targeting Algerian nationals. Two people were later detained.

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All disquiet on the Kitchener front

# Famous face of Empire failed to woo new recruits

Kamal Ahmed on a warts-and-all TV exposé of a great British military hero

**T**HE staring eyes, the moustache, the pointing finger. It only needs the words and immediately the image leaps out: Your Country Needs You.

But the mythology of the poster which became one of the greatest recruitment advertisements in the world was exposed by a television documentary which claims that the famous image had no impact on Britain's search for soldiers during the first world war.

The programme, *Kitchener - The Empire's Flawed Hero*, alleges that the poster was never officially sanctioned by the government, was disliked by Kitchener and was not seen outside London.

Kitchener, the programme also says, was a repressed homosexual who surrounded himself with a coterie of young officers. The poster was launched in 1914 by a magazine called *London Opinion*, described as a paid imitation of *Punch*, when recruitment levels were already falling rapidly and had little impact on the government's drive for new soldiers.

Kitchener, who distinguished himself during the reconquest of the Sudan in 1898, was so annoyed that his image had been used instead of the king's that he insisted that *God Save the King* was written on the poster and his name removed.

"It is one of the collective myths of modern history," said Jad Adams, the producer of the programme to be shown at the beginning of June.

When Mr Adams started making the programme for the BBC's *Reputations* series, he searched for pictures of the poster in front of queues of eager, fresh faced recruits.

"In fact we couldn't find one," he said. "There is no contemporary image of the Kitchener poster with recruits, not in film, photographs or newspapers."

"It was a real mystery, until we investigated further and found that the poster was not released until late in September 1914, after the recruitment figures had peaked."

More prosaic posters passed by the parliamentary recruiting committee, including pictures of sailing soldiers under the heading *Follow the Brave Throng* were more effective.


The Kitchener poster was actually dreamed up by Henry Le Bas, an advertiser of mail order goods, and was frowned on by officials.

It was only in the 1920s that its power became mythologised as part of the pacifist movement against the war.

It was cited as one of the ways the government had tried to dupe young men into fighting and became the focus of claims that it had led to the recruitment of the 2.5 million strong "Kitchener's army".

The programme will also shine a spotlight on Kitchener's war record, particularly during the Boer war when he first sanctioned the use of concentration camps.

# BRITONS



"WANTS YOU"

## JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY!

### GOD SAVE THE KING

Reproduced by permission of LONDON OPINION

were rounded up and kept in settlements where they were denied medical supplies.

The programme suggests that 26,000 lives could have been saved if Kitchener had been more concerned about the Boers' fate.

Kitchener, whom Queen Victoria described as "her favourite soldier", is also revealed as having surprisingly feminine interests despite being the man who invented the "scorched earth" war policy of destroying everything in an army's path.

"He was a keen flower arranger, collector of fine porcelain, an interior decorator and lover of tables, an artform in itself in Victorian England," Mr Adams said.

"There have been suggestions that he was a homosexual and I have come to the conclusion that indeed he had suppressed that side of his sexuality."

Kitchener, who became secretary of state for war until his mysterious death in 1916 when the boat he was on sank in the North Sea, never married.

The programme blames his tough upbringing and early death of his mother for his brutal war policies. His great-grand niece, Emma Kitchener, said that as a boy he was pegged out on a croquet lawn in the blazing sun for misbehaving.

#### In the vanguard

- Bom 1850
- Died 1916
- Jobs: Adviser to French armies in the Loire, led British forces in Egypt and against the Boers in southern Africa, secretary of state for war 1914-16
- Famous for leading the British army attack on Sudan after General Gordon was killed by forces loyal to the Mahdi. Revealed tough man credentials by saying he wanted to use the Mahdi's severed head as an inkstand
- Also famous for setting up the first concentration camps during the Boer war; inventing "scorched earth" war policy; appearing on the *Your Country Needs You* poster
- Less famous for flower arranging, interior decorating, collecting fine porcelain, not liking the *Your Country Needs You* poster
- Did say: Do your duty bravely. Honour the King
- Never said: Must get that Mahdi over for a glass of claret

She will ask the East Sussex coroner to postpone the full inquest until after any trials. Five police officers, including a superintendent, an acting chief inspector and an inspector, face charges, the Guardian understands. Mr Ashley was asleep with his girlfriend when police entered his flat at 4am on January 15. He got up, naked and unarmed, and was shot in the chest. The Sussex chief constable, Paul Whitehouse, told

## Saudi blood money will be paid

Sarah Hall

**T**HE two British nurses freed by Saudi Arabia agreed yesterday to release the £740,000 "blood money" to the brother of the woman they were convicted of murdering.

Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan have instructed their lawyers to transfer the money, raised by British companies in Saudi Arabia and held in trust in an Australian bank, to Frank Gilford. It should be with him "within days".

Mr Gilford, aged 59, agreed to the sum after waiving his right to the death penalty imposed on Parry by a Saudi court last year. Parry, aged 39, and McLauchlan, aged 32, were convicted of stabbing Yvonne Gilford, a 55-year-old colleague, to death in December 1996.

Yesterday Parry's lawyer, Roger Pannone, said the women's Australian lawyer, Michael Burnett, had been instructed to contact the trustee of the bank account where the money was being held and authorise its release.

"I spoke to him in the early hours of this morning and the money should be with Mr Gilford within days," he added.

He said the sum - only £22,639 of which will be kept by Mr Gilford, with £3,700 going to his mother, and the remainder being spent on legal bills and a medical centre in honour of his sister - had not been released earlier for two reasons: there had been no official confirmation

that Parry had been convicted, or that Mr Gilford had signed the paperwork waiving his right to the death penalty.

"We were waiting for the Saudi court to confirm everything was in order and until we knew this, the money couldn't be paid," said Mr Pannone.

"There was always the risk we could authorise the release and then be told: 'There's been a further appeal and Deborah Parry is now subject to the death penalty'."

He added that confirmation on both counts arrived only last week, after the two women were released following King Fahd commuting their sentences to the time they spent in jail.

Mr Pannone and McLauchlan's lawyer, William Boyle, also denied claims by the Saudi Arabian lawyer, Salah al Hejailan, that the two women are demanding £1 million compensation from Mr Gilford for causing mental anguish by mounting a "malicious campaign against them" whilst they were held in jail.

"I have had no instructions to take any action against Frank Gilford," said Mr Pannone. "No one is considering any action, not even for one million dollars," said Mr Boyle.

But McLauchlan's lawyer added that any legal action against Mr Gilford could not be ruled out.

"I have got a lady who has just come home and is not in a condition to think about anything just now," he said.

## Five officers may be charged over killing by armed police

Sarah Boswell

**J**AMES Ashley, the 39-year-old man shot dead in January when armed police burst in to his flat in Hastings, was not involved in the stabbing which Sussex police claimed was the reason for the raid, the Police Complaints Authority stated yesterday.

The announcement came on the eve of the resumed inquest into Mr Ashley's death, where Barbara Wilding, assistant chief constable of Kent police and in charge of the investigation into the raid, will reveal that police officers are to be charged with criminal offences.

She will ask the East Sussex coroner to postpone the full inquest until after any trials. Five police officers, including a superintendent, an acting chief inspector and an inspector, face charges, the Guardian understands.

Mr Ashley was asleep with his girlfriend when police entered his flat at 4am on January 15. He got up, naked and unarmed, and was shot in the chest. The Sussex chief constable, Paul Whitehouse, told

a press conference that he had every confidence his men had acted properly. They had been in pursuit of a man they believed to be armed, who had been involved in a stabbing a week earlier.

In fact, Mr Ashley saved the victim's life by pulling the assailant off him.

Yesterday, at the end of the Kent inquiry, Tony Williams, of the investigating team, said: "It is clear there was no evidence to indicate that Mr Ashley carried out this stabbing."

Mr Ashley's family made an official complaint against Mr Whitehouse, alleging that he had wrongly vilified their son's name and prejudged the inquiry. They also complained that he had not immediately suspended the officer who killed Mr Ashley.

PC Chris Sherwood was suspended a month later. It is understood he may face charges relating to Mr Ashley's shooting. Four other officers were suspended on Saturday. Charges being considered against them relate to allegedly giving misleading information which led to the raid being armed.



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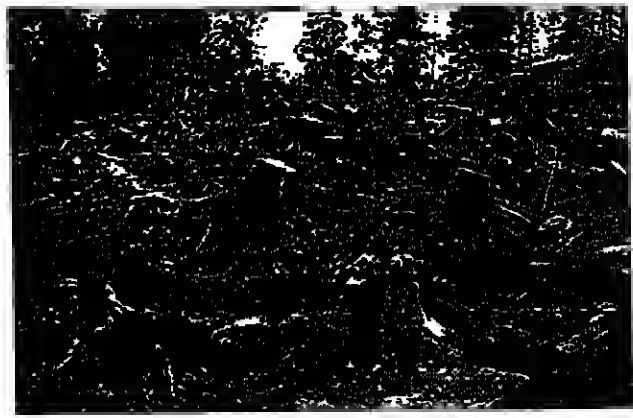
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Green scorecard aims to shame Europe into keeping environmental pledges. **Martin Walker** in Brussels reports

# Britain 'failing its forests'



Deforestation near Loch Tummel in Scotland (above) illustrates the WWF's claim that Britain's woodlands are at risk. It hopes to convince governments to do more to protect areas such as south-west Germany's Black Forest (right)

**B** RITAIN is fourth from bottom for forestry management among European countries, according to the first detailed survey on the subject, devised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to show that European governments are failing to live up to promises of good practice.

"The UK has virtually no natural forests left, and some ecosystem types have entirely disappeared. Forest cover is low, and most British forests are actually plantations," says the WWF report, published yesterday.

"Despite widespread forest loss, only 2.5 per cent of the remaining area is under strict protection."

Britain is dragged down the league table by the worst score in Europe for pollution, measured by annual per-capita emissions of carbon dioxide, sulphur, nitrogen and volatile organic compounds.

"The problem is political inertia," said the WWF's director-general, Dr Claudia Martin.

"The year after the 1992 Rio summit on the environment, Europe's governments met in

Helsinki to sign up to a pan-European process of sustainable forestry management, maintaining biodiversity and setting up networks of protected areas.

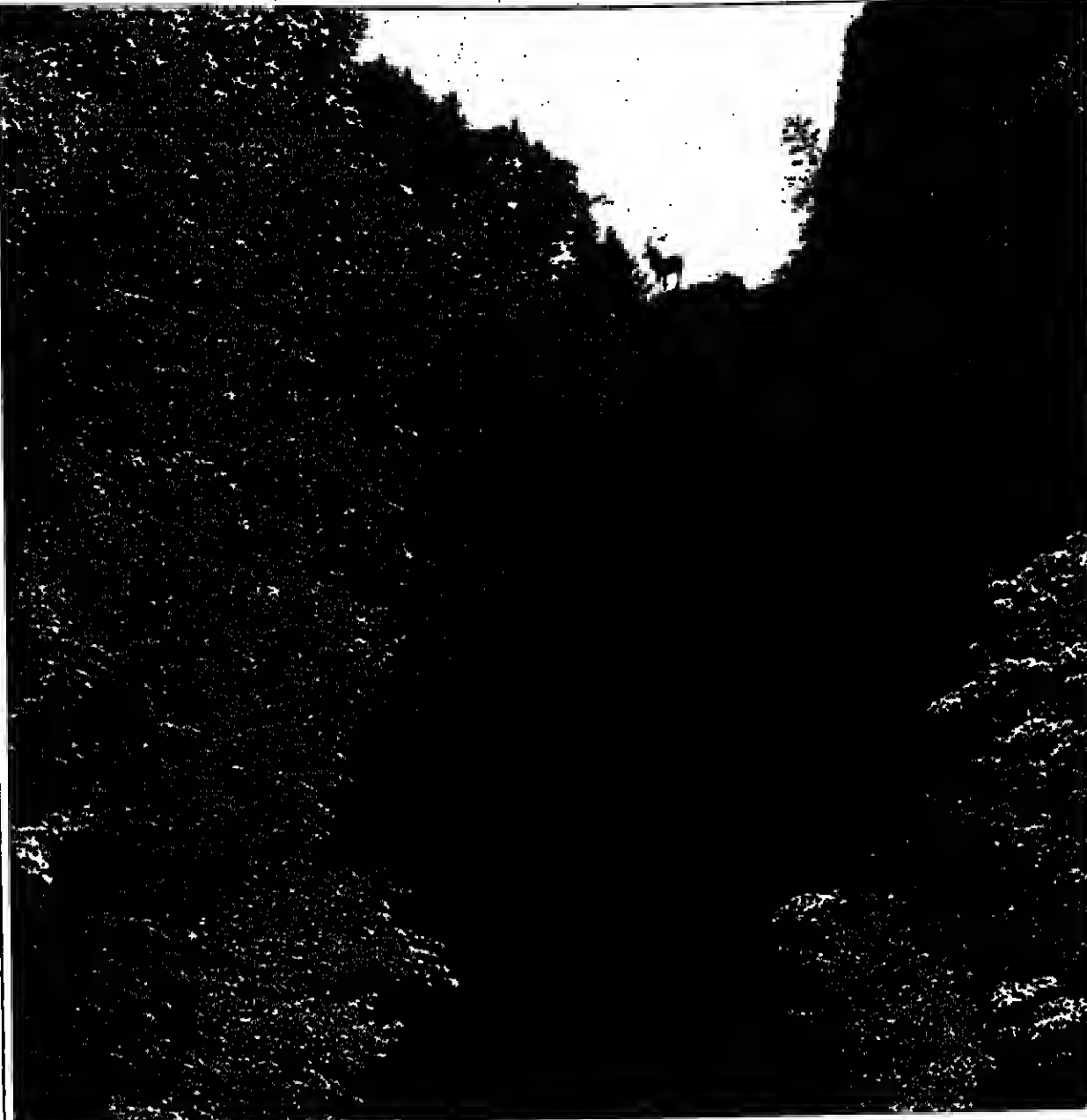
"With rare exceptions like Finland, they have done little to deliver on those promises. Indeed, Europe's ministries of forestry do not even have the means of measuring how badly they are doing."

"And because we want to hold them to their promises, we have now provided a cutting-edge management tool to help them assess forestry management."

In one of the WWF's most ambitious projects, its staff surveyed forests in 15 countries. The criteria they used were levels of pollution, the amount of protected forest area, the standards of production and the national environmental, social and cultural policies applied to forests.

In all, 91 questions were posed, ranging from the quality of each country's data to the quality of forestry management training and education.

Europe's forestry ministers meet next week in Lisbon, where the WWF hopes to shame them into delivering



on the Helsinki promises by presenting them with its European forest scorecard. It will warn them that the scorecard will become an annual event.

"Nine of the 15 countries do not systematically set aside biologically important forest areas," said the WWF's forests expert, Per Rosenberg.

"Only five countries have a

comprehensive system for establishing lists of threatened species, and eight of them have less than 2.5 per cent of their forests protected."

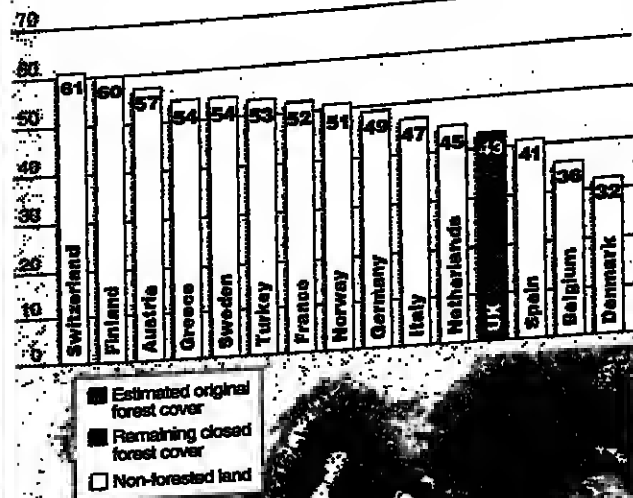
"In Belgium's Wallonia

region, which includes the Ardennes, only 0.06 per cent of the forest is strictly protected."

Old-growth forests have almost disappeared from

## Good forestry

The European forest scorecard gives points for pollution control, the amount of protected areas and environmental policies



Europe and amount to less than 2 per cent of woodland. In the rest, says the WWF, natural forest has been replaced by commercial plantations of a single type of tree, often fast-growing conifer, and the loss of traditional habitat has undermined native plant and animal populations.

Pockets of Europe's original woodlands remain, including about 1 per cent of the Caledonian Forest.

In the Rodopi forest on the border of Greece and Bulgaria is the last patch of Europe's original wild wood, which covered most of the

continent before the rise of the Roman Empire.

Spain's traditional Mediterranean forest has been reduced to three scattered patches.

"Forests do not just supply wood," said Dr Martin. "They provide oxygen and clean fresh water and act as water reservoirs."

"They protect against erosion and avalanches, offer recreation and inspiration and even contribute gastronomic delights like venison, berries and mushrooms. And they play host to an amazing variety of animals and plants."

## Danes pursue German war crime suspect

Stephen Bates in Copenhagen

**T**HE Danish government's demand that a 76-year-old former SS trooper be tried in Germany for his alleged role in a wartime shooting rally in a war-torn town has caused tension between Copenhagen and Bonn on the eve of Denmark's referendum on the Amsterdam treaty.

Copenhagen said it was planning to supply evidence about the role of Søren Kam, born a Dane but now a German citizen, in the shooting of a Danish journalist in 1943.

German police interviewed Mr Kam about his wartime activities in 1971 but decided he had no case to answer. An attempt to extradite him to Denmark failed last year when the German authorities refused to hand him over.

Mr Kam outraged Danes by allowing himself to be filmed dressed in his old SS uniform at a veterans' rally in Austria three years ago.

Frede Kilgaard, the chairman of the Danish resistance veterans' association said: "The game of pingpong between the two countries has now dragged this case out for a long time in the hope that this man will die and bring the whole unpleasant affair to a close."

Mr Kam is accused of complicity in the execution of journalist and resistance fighter Carl Henrik Clemmensen in Copenhagen in August 1943. There were three Danes in the SS party which arrested him. One, Knud Flemming, was executed after the war for his part in the affair,

and another, Jørgen Bitsch, disappeared.

The case revives uncomfortable memories for Danes about their part in the German occupation during the second world war and involves current concerns about Europe, which will resurface in tomorrow's referendum. The Amsterdam treaty is intended to reform institutions as the EU prepares to expand eastwards.

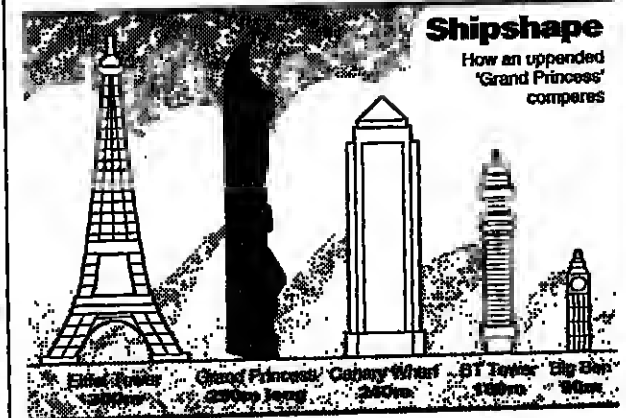
The referendum is a single day in April 1998, encountering little resistance. It is thought that up to 5,000 Danes volunteered for the SS. About the same number fought for the Allies or joined the resistance.

Toughness about Denmark's sovereignty — a big issue in the debate over its European Union membership — stems partly from an ongoing argument over whether it surrendered its sovereignty during the German occupation, when the Nazis allowed Danes a measure of self-government. The king remained in his palace throughout the war and the government in office for much of the it.

The referendum debate has included accusations that the Amsterdam treaty would allow German police to pursue criminals fleeing over the Danish border.

Leading figures on both sides of the referendum campaign claimed yesterday that the outcome was too close to call, with polls showing support for a yes vote down to 47 per cent — just eight points ahead of the no vote — with 14 per cent of the electorate still undecided.

## Titanic cruise liner sails amid sea of superlatives — and no icebergs



The £275m star in the P&O fleet makes her maiden voyage today, writes **Chris Morris** in Ankara

**I**F BIGGEST is best then the Grand Princess should rule the waves. The largest and most expensive cruise liner ever built sets off on its maiden voyage from Istanbul today, leaving statistical superlatives and a few teething troubles in its wake.

Likened unkindly by one local resident to a grotesque floating tower block, the ship is supposed to be the last word in cruising luxury. It was built in Italy at a cost of more than \$275 million and will be the star attraction of the British-owned P&O fleet.

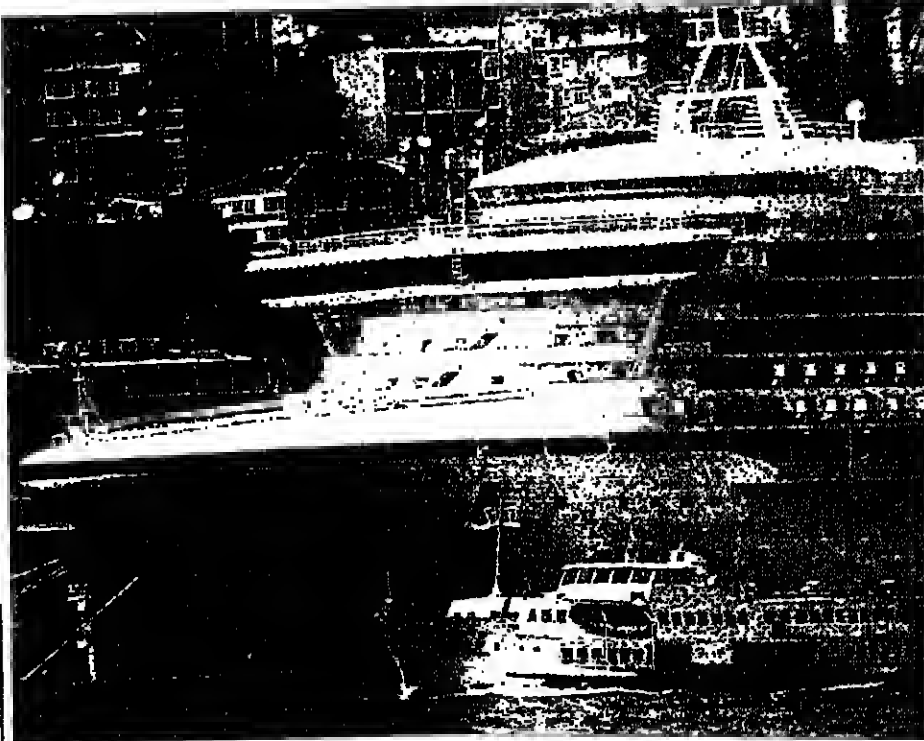
The Grand Princess has 15 separate deck levels, but if the stairs become a bit too much, there are panoramic lifts available, encased by an illuminated

"bubble-ator" tube in which tiny bubbles stream upwards with you.

The ship's owners say the new superliner is designed "to offer big-ship choice while keeping the intimate atmosphere of a smaller vessel."

Some 2,600 passengers will put that intimacy to the test during a cruise which will take them from Turkey to Greece, Italy, Monte Carlo and Spain.

They will have little excuse for being bored. The Grand Princess boasts five swimming pools — including one with a coral reef — a nine-hole mini golf course, tennis courts, theatres and the "Hearts and Minds" wedding chapel for those who get carried away by the romance of the sea. There is also a virtual



A commuter ferry is dwarfed by the Grand Princess, the world's largest cruise ship, anchored off Istanbul's Karakoy port yesterday

reality centre, an art gallery and a glass-walled nightclub, suspended 150ft above the stern, with spectacular views.

It has not been all plain sailing for the new era of superliners. The maiden voyage of the Grand Princess was supposed to have begun from Southampton earlier this month but the ship was not ready and P&O clearly had no desire to risk a public relations fiasco.

Three years ago the Cunard-owned QE2 set sail for New York after a refit, with plumbing and wiring work still to be done. Furious passengers eventually won millions of pounds in compensation from the company.

Yesterday last minute "adjustments" were still taking place on Grand Princess, but a spokeswoman for P&O's local agents said everything would be "perfectly ready" for the cruise.

This is the first of three 109,000-tonne superliners which the company is building as demand for luxury cruises soars, despite ferry cruises flocking to see the Titanic plunging to the bottom of the North Atlantic.

Anyone who harbours any doubts will be pleased to know that the Grand Princess is described as a lot safer. And there are no reports of icebergs in the Mediterranean.

## Survey casts doubt upon European ferry safety

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**T**OURISTS travelling on Europe's car and passenger ferries this summer may find "shocking safety defects", a survey suggested yesterday.

A German study has discovered a gaping discrepancy in safety standards between ships in the Mediterranean and those in northern Europe, with the northerners being far safer than those servicing the Greek islands and the Turkish and Italian coasts.

Polish and Estonian ships were deemed safer than 20 English Channel ferries examined in the survey of 30 ferries by the German equivalent of the British Automobile Association, Adac.

"We were surprised to find that in the Baltic, an Estonian and a Polish ship came out much better than the Scandinavian ferries," said one of the Adac inspectors.

In the Mediterranean, the inspectors encountered captain's bridges so stuffed with bird cages and plants as to hinder navigation.

Hatches and bulkheads were left open, lorries were not bound to the deck, fire doors were rusted, lifejackets were good for nothing, the engines of lifeboats were faulty and gas cylinders and oil barrels were rolling around on the vehicle deck.

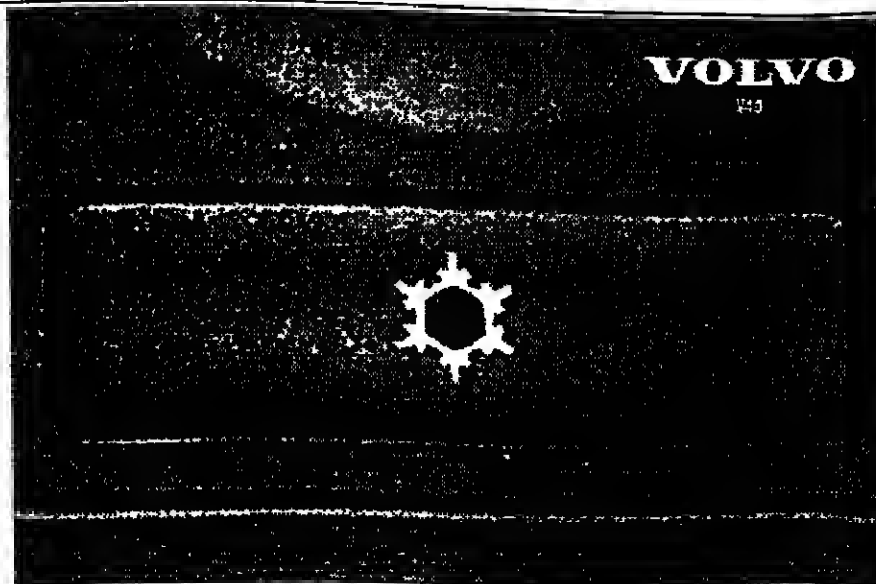
"There are ferries with hair-raising defects at sea in the eastern Mediterranean," said the Adac survey leader, Robert Sauter.

"There's a clear north-south gap."

Only five of the 30 boats inspected came out reasonably well, all of them in northern waters.

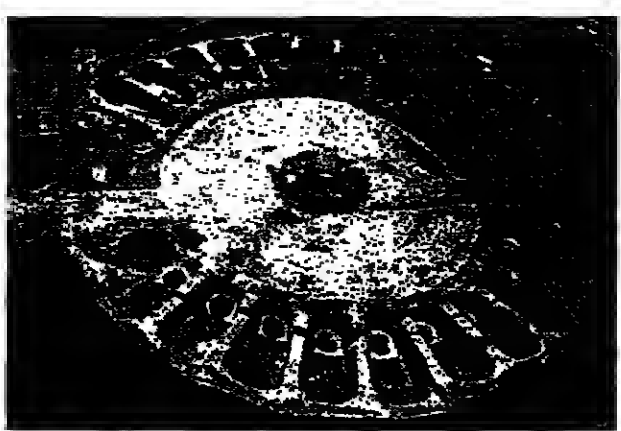
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A terracotta pitcher (left), decorated with grapes and insects and bearing a phallic spout, was found in Salonika's ancient bordello. The neighbouring sauna (above) boasted 25 marble baths. PHOTOGRAPHS: POLYXENI VALENI

A clay dildo, prostitutes' masks and offerings to the goddess of love are among the treasures unearthed at a 2,000-year-old Greek complex dedicated to the pursuit of pleasure, writes **Helena Smith** in Salonika

## Sex toys excite archaeologists

**T**HE first home of the world's oldest profession could not be better placed. From a dank, dark world four feet below the ground, Salonika's 2,000-year-old brothel faces a wig shop and a bus station, and looks on to the biggest and busiest square in northern Greece.

At first nothing gave the ancient sex shop away — not even during extensive excavation of the exquisite Roman forum under which it nestles. Nothing, that is, until archaeologists began unearthing all manner of sex toys in a find that made the most outrageous romp on the most explicit classical Greek vase seem tame.

Among the rich pickings were a clay dildo, several erotic figurines and a red pitcher with a phallic

spout. Innumerable offerings to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, were dug up.

"As soon as we found this," said Dr Polyxeni Valeni, producing the small clay dildo, "We realised what we had stumbled across. There can be no doubt that the building was used as a bordello and that it is the oldest of its kind."

The archaeologists came across the treasures in a rectangular room bordering a well preserved bath house. Last week they extended their excavation into an area that is believed to have been part of the same mosaic-floored chamber.

"So far we have only unearthed a fraction of the building, perhaps less than a tenth," said Dr Valeni, who is in charge of the excavation. "I'm sure there is a lot more that runs under

Philippou Street and the square opposite... we could soon be seeing a lot more of these extraordinary objects."

There is consensus among experts that the sex shop is one of the most exciting archaeological finds in Greece this century. While better preserved brothels have been found in Pompeii and Ephesus, they have never been as old — or as full of erotic paraphernalia.

"Such artefacts are very rare," said Professor Dimitrios Pantermalis, Greece's foremost archaeologist. "They not only highlight the importance of this find but [also] the Roman forum which is, anyway, one of the best of its kind in the world."

The first century BC brothel was almost certainly part of a late Hellenistic complex dedicated to the pursuit of physical pleasure.

Among the thousands of clay shards found on the site were the remnants of pink and yellow comedy and tragedy masks.

"They were probably used by prostitutes conducting pantomimes to tease their clients," said Dr Valeni.

She said the discovery of hundreds of glass plates, jugs, scent bottles and ornate oil lamps indicated that the rectangular room had been the "naughty chamber" below a tavern. Customers would have retired to it after enjoying a sauna in one of the 25 marble baths built around a central boiler of heated stones.

"After eating in the taverna customers could

## Yeltsin cuts spending as crisis bites

James Meek in Moscow

**S**PLASHING government spending yesterday, President Boris Yeltsin gambled in a high-stakes game with the International Monetary Fund, the money markets and millions of discontented, unpaid workers.

He signed a decree offered by his tough young prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, and imposed cuts of 40 billion roubles (\$4 billion) — an eighth of this year's state budget.

Much of the impact will be on bogus spending — money which was promised but which was never going to be available. Some cuts, however, will be real, and it is not clear who will suffer most: the hungry army, defence plants, the space programme or health, education and welfare.

Amid the continuing financial crisis which threatens to make Russia the latest victim of the westward-spreading wave from Asia, the president and Mr Kiriyenko felt they had no choice but to cut spending and take steps to increase revenue.

Income from oil and raw materials exports is at post-Soviet lows, foreign investors are hanging back and the cost of borrowing is at absurd levels. In the bond market yesterday, one-year Russian government bonds were offering investors a return of 55 per cent after inflation.

Mr Yeltsin's measures had no immediate effect. The small Russian stock market, once a star performer, plunged the depths, the stable rouble — the centrepiece of the previous government's achievements — wobbled, and no bids were received for the privatisation offer of the year, the state oil company Rosneft. Prospective buyers clearly felt they could sweat a lower starting price out of a government on the ropes.

The IMF, which plays a key role in Mr Kiriyenko's plans to save Russia from fiscal disaster, remained coy on whether it would hand out the latest \$670 million (\$400 million) of its long-term loan to Russia.

Counter to its image as an inveterate supporter of cuts in state spending, the IMF is understood to be nervous about yesterday's decree. It wanted the Russian government to impose tax increases as an alternative way of bringing revenue and spending in line — despite the fact that taxes are already high and hard to collect.

Al Breach, an economist at the Russian-European Centre for Economic Policy in Moscow, accused the IMF of failing to support "the best Russian government in five years".

He pointed out that Russia had managed to cut its deficit by more than half compared to this time last year. "The IMF is in danger of having another failure, the last one being Indonesia," he warned.

## Exodus to Montenegro as Kosovo conflict worsens

Harriet Martin in Geneva

**M**ORE than 34,000 people have fled their homes in Kosovo, and increasing numbers are escaping into neighbouring Montenegro because of the mounting conflict in the Serbian province, the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, said yesterday.

Serbian security forces launched a large-scale offensive on Monday against the ethnic Albanian rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The operation, which left a trail of burning villages, took place despite the beginning of peace talks on Friday.

The thousands displaced since Serbian security forces attacked KLA strongholds in central Kosovo in late February are mostly sheltering in villages away from the fighting. But over the past week there has been a dramatic increase in people leaving the province.

UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said: "More than 800 people registered as refugees in Montenegro last week, compared with just six the week before."

UNHCR also reported that last week a humanitarian convoy carrying aid for ethnic Albanians had been confiscated by the Serbian authorities.

## India pays price for test furore

Foreign Staff

**T**HE United States and other large powers punished India for its nuclear testing yesterday by asking the World Bank to postpone consideration of more than \$800 million (\$500 million) in development loans.

The bank said several of its 24 executive directors had requested the delay and others were consulted, so "consideration of loans to India has been postponed for a date to be determined". The

censure for India came as pressure mounted on Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, from a leading Islamic politician to explode a bomb.

"India has created a dramatic change in the entire situation of the region and the world," said Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the Jamaat Islami party.

Mr Sharif has kept the world guessing about if, when and how Islamabad might declare its nuclear status. But Gohar Ayub, the foreign minister, has hinted that strong security guarantees by powers such as the United States could keep Islamabad from demonstrating its nuclear capability.

Mr Ahmed said either choice would bring difficult consequences for the government.

A nuclear test would bring extreme economic hardships in the form of sanctions.

But to hold fire was to accept the US security umbrella — and thus become a front line state against China and Iran — and invite a severe popular backlash that could

unseat the government, he added.

The only way out for the government was to "press the button" and save people from being demoralised.

The World Bank statement on India did not mention nuclear tests or give any reason for the postponement, but US officials were obliged by the sanctions imposed against India after the tests earlier this month to oppose the loans.

Four proposed projects were due to go to the bank's board this week: a \$130 million package to support India's renewable energy programme; a \$450 million loan to develop India's national electric power grid; a \$275 million loan to improve roads in the northern state of Haryana; and a \$10 million loan to a private sector project.

Bank officials would not name the countries which wanted to delay the loans. But at the G8 summit meeting two weeks ago, the US, Japan and Canada led the call for joint sanctions against India. The idea was opposed by Britain, France and Germany.

## MPs caught in clash as Jewish settlers move into Old City

Our correspondent in Jerusalem

**T**HE cauldron of territorial jealousies and ethnic hatreds simmering in Jerusalem's Old City boiled over yesterday as Palestinian parliamentarians brawled with Israeli policemen over a new Jewish settlement inside the Muslim quarter overnight near one of its northern entrances (known as Flowers or Herod's Gate to Palestinians and Jews respectively). They poured concrete foundations over which they erected tin roofs, and declared their intention to build a permanent settlement on the site to avenge the murder of one of their members there earlier this month.

But the settlement was also part of Ateret Cohanim's avowed strategy of building bridgeheads in traditionally Arab areas to increase Jewish control over the hotly contested city, before the issue is raised at long-postponed comprehensive negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis.

A Jerusalem court yesterday ordered the settlers to stop construction after an appeal by the Israeli Antiquities Authority, which pointed out that no new construction was permitted within the Old City walls without its approval.

Mr Saleh told journalists: "This government doesn't know anything but power,

and it seems they are calling us to use some of our power." That was almost certainly a warning of further protests against Jewish settlement on Arab land — a potentially explosive issue which has blocked Israeli-Palestinian negotiations for the past 15 months.

Members of a far-right Jewish group, Ateret Cohanim, moved into the Muslim quarter overnight near one of its northern entrances (known as Flowers or Herod's Gate to Palestinians and Jews respectively). They poured concrete foundations over which they erected tin roofs, and declared their intention to build a permanent settlement on the site to avenge the murder of one of their members there earlier this month.

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## Former CIA boss urges reduction in US arsenal

Richard Norton-Taylor

**A**FORMER director of the CIA will today join a former chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the unlikely setting of a Quaker centre in London and call for deep cuts in the strategic weapons arsenal of the United States.

In an interview with the Guardian yesterday, Admiral Stansfield Turner described his bold, imaginative — and, he insisted, achievable — plan to control nuclear weapons at a time when existing arms control treaties are under threat from the Russian parliament and from India's recent underground tests.

"The message I bring to London is that the irresponsible action by the Indians should be a wake-up call for us," said Adm Turner, who

will also visit Paris, Bonn, and Moscow.

The US, followed by Russia, France, Britain and China, should cut their nuclear arsenal to about 200 weapons, he said.

The warheads would be held in what he calls "strategic escrow", accessible to their owners but stored separately from delivery systems and monitored by an international team of observers.

"If the warheads are taken out, the observer teams will blow the alarm," said Adm Turner, director of the CIA from 1977 to 1981.

"The nuclear powers would keep their weapons as a deterrent, but under very circumspect conditions of high visibility and no instant readiness."

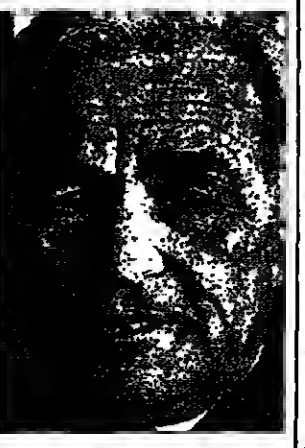
He said the US currently had about 15,000 nuclear warheads, the Russians 20,000, and there were altogether some 37,000 stockpiled round the world.

Britain had about 300. These were far more than were needed as a deterrent.

Moreover, while the US and Britain had implied that their nuclear weapons were solely a deterrent against nuclear attack by others, they had not abandoned their cold war threat that they might be used against a conventional attack. That did not encourage other countries to abandon attempts to acquire nuclear weapons.

Adm Turner first proposed the "strategic escrow" plan in his book, *Caging the Nuclear Genie: An American Challenge for Global Security*, published last year.

He said yesterday his plan would encourage the Russian parliament to ratify the START-2 strategic missile reduction treaty, and India to sign the comprehensive test ban



'Irresponsible action by India should be a wake-up call for us' Stansfield Turner

## Americans may lose right to burn their star-spangled banner

Martin Kettle in Washington reports on congressional moves to amend the Constitution to protect Stars and Stripes

**A**CAMPAIGN to outlaw the burning of the United States flag is about to bear fruit in the US Congress.

An anti-flag-burning amendment to the US Consti-

And with 49 of the 50 states already on record in favour of the change, the amendment is set to clear the remaining hurdles to full ratification next year.

The new amendment, one of a range of constitutional amendments drafted by the victorious Republicans after their landslide Congressional victory in 1994, says the Congress "shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States", and is fired by continuing rightwing hatred for the anti-war movement of the 1960s, as well as its most prominent one-time supporter, President Bill Clinton.

The push for the amendment came after the US supreme court ruled in 1989 and 1990 against state and federal laws prohibiting flag-burning. On each of these occasions the court ruled that the

prohibition was unlawful in light of the Constitution's protection of free speech. The congressional constitutional amendment is intended to override that objection.

Though a common sight in anti-war demonstrations three decades ago, the burning of the US flag is now something of a rarity. However, the Citizens Flag Alliance, which is campaigning in favour of the constitutional

amendment, says that it has not disappeared. Demonstrators burned the flag outside the White House during a protest against US policy in Iraq earlier this year. And a Wisconsin man who defecated on the Stars and Stripes was acquitted under a state law because the courts ruled that he was using his free speech rights.

Supporters of the amendment say that it is a limited measure that seeks to protect the flag, the unifying symbol of the nation. They cite opinion polls which show 83 per cent agreement with the statement that flag-burning is not an appropriate expression of freedom of speech. "Our success will insure the passage of the values we cherish to our children and future generations," said Anthony Jordan, the national commander of the American Flag Association.

But critics say that it is a repressive move against a problem that does not need fixing, and that it penalises legitimate political dissent. They also charge that if Congress passes a badly drafted law, the courts may have to outlaw the use of the US flag on clothing. "This amendment diminishes the very freedoms the flag represents," said Jerome Shestack of the American Bar Association.



# Comment

## Diary

Matthew Norman

**B**AFFLEMENT cloaks the old Etonian triangle of Jonathan Aitken, Malcolm Pearson and Telegraph editor Charles Moore. On Thursday, you will recall, the Telegraph splashed with the Pearson-supplied tale of how "Aitken lied for Britain" (M16 and all that), with a bylined panegyric by the noble Lord Pearson inside. Charles, who has long hero-worshipped Aitken, ran the best part of 5,000 words, in fact, without making the most rudimentary checks. Bless him. However, on Saturday, Jonathan had a letter in the Telegraph (the full, unexpurgated version of which appeared in the Times) rubbishing every word. So who is Charles Moore supposed to believe now? The poor lamb must be in torment... and so, in a bid to help him sort things out, we will be examining Malcolm and his claims to reliability this week. By way of a taster, here are the last lines from a 1997 Pearson profile. "There is one abiding quality which seems to animate him: it is goodness." That, needless to say, comes from the Daily Telegraph. But can Charles, in his heart of hearts, believe it still?

**T**HE Culture Secretary Chris Smith breaks new ground again. The first openly gay cabinet minister now becomes the first cabinet minister to author a Diary Book of the Month! Not since Nigel Mansell's autobiography has there been such a buzz about any book as now. Combining the raw power of Jackie Collins with the story-telling discipline of John Grisham, and with a sprinkling of magic realism on top (Chris's style is said to owe more than a nod and a wink to the late Angela Carter), Creative Britain is the book everyone's talking about. Read it here, exclusively and in breach of every copyright law ever written, throughout the month of June.

**T**HREE more nonagenarians stake their claim. Quoting Daily Worker journalist Eric Scott's 91 and recovering from cataract surgery, while Kath Crozier encloses seven birthday cards to prove that she snuck in, having turned 90 on May 14. Meanwhile, Ruth Andrew—a Guardian reader ever since the Times went to Wapping—writes: "It is a great paper, and I think you are quite right to concentrate on the interests of our older readers," and her birth certificate confirms the approach of her 96th. "To be honest, I find your small print very difficult, but my daughter will often read bits out of the Diary to me. I must say that I think it a shame that the young people in the press office at No 10 should be rude to you," she concludes. "When you are only trying to be helpful to Mr Blair." Thank you for that. The champagne is on its way.

**M**RS Andrew will be distressed to learn of further insolence when my colleague Simon Bowers rang Downing Street yesterday with a perfectly simple request. We were thinking, he explained, of rebranding Japan and its Emperor for the British market, and wanted to run it by you first. Silence ensued. Hello? "Hello," I said. "Would you give us a steer?" "I don't think so, I'm sure you'll address this in the usual serious manner you address everything in the Guardian Diary. So cheerio." Click. Brrrrr. Mrs Andrew's letter has been fixed to the press office. I hope they will take its message to heart.

**T**HEOLOGY comes to Arsenal fanzone Highbury High. "Does that mean," asks Mike Kenward, considering the excellent record of second-choice goalkeeper Alex Manninger, "that we've got a new goalkeeping Messiah? Well, when the Sun mistakenly described him as a qualified carpenter, I immediately thought back to one very famous carpenter who went on to great things in Palestine 2,000 years ago." How true... and how typical of the football writer to turn his mind to the Son of God. "Bethlehem," as cerebral Mirror reporter Harry Harris once put it, "birthplace of the legendary Jesus Christ..."



## There's only one way for Japan to bring about real reconciliation



Jonathan Freedland

**W**HILE JUST a teenager, he gazed upon man's darkest face. He was an inmate of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he saw his own family, his friends and his neighbours gassed and incinerated. Incredibly, Hugo Gryn survived that ordeal to grow into a funny, warm and generous man—loved by the community he served as rabbi and by the millions who used to lap up his humane brand of wisdom on Radio 4's Moral Maze. His experiences had left him not bitter, but sage and strong.

Right until his death Hugo Gryn was asked whether he could forgive the Nazis for what they had done to the Jews. He would give the same answer every time—that he was not authorised to offer forgiveness. "The only ones who could forgive are not here," he would say softly. They are dead.

That answer often disappointed his questioners. They wanted to draw a line under the Holocaust, and the rabbi's response meant, as a matter of simple logic, there could never be any forgiveness. It was too late: the dead were dead. The pain would linger on forever.

It was hard to escape that thought on the Mall yesterday, watching the hundreds of ex-PoWs turn their backs on the grand, gilded state coach that carried Emperor Akihito to Buckingham Palace. Their hissing, their flag-burning, their whistling of Colonel Bogey proved that—for them, at least—the past has not let go. It lives with them still, perhaps more keenly than ever.

And with us, too. Just yesterday, the Emperor's visit competed for space on the media radar screen with confirmation that Swiss central bankers knew German wartime gold had been stolen from Jews held in concentration camps—and did nothing about it. Meanwhile the tabloids were gearing up for the World Cup, having been officially warned not to repeat their "Achtung, Surrender!" antics of Euro 96, lest there be yet another rematch of England v Germany. The wording would probably be more restrained this time—but the sentiment would be just the same.

More than five decades after the second world war, the emotions of that era still bubble away. So many commentators thought we would put it all aside in May 1995, when we marked the 50th anniversary of VE Day with a long, national party. Celebrate, they told us—then let's close the shoebox of memories, tie it with string and shove it in the attic where it belongs. Fifty years was enough, they said: it's time to move on.

And yet we refuse to do as we are told. We elected a prime minister who has made a creed of modernity. "The future not the past" is Blair's holy writ—repeated, in a different context and to great effect, all last week in Belfast. Yesterday the PM delivered the same message to the victims of Japanese brutality, urging them, via his spokesman, not to allow Britain's current relationship with Japan "to be defined solely by the past".

In that spirit, Mr Blair decided to show the Emperor's face to the world. Children with a Cool Britannia line-up of guests at last night's state banquet—from fashion designers Paul Smith and Alexander McQueen to novelist Kazuo Ishiguro. Of course, the prime minister's insistence that the ex-prisoners put their past behind them looked pretty daff along with the flummery of the Emperor's reception. Britain is so steeped in its past that His Highness was ferried around London in a fairytale coach, to receive a 650-year-old honour which entitles him to hang his sword in a royal chapel and to wear a dandy uniform of dark blue velvet robe, red hood, black velvet hat and ostrich plumes. The fact that this whole row was started by the decision of one unelected head of state (ours) to honour another (theirs) with a pantomime of feudal nonsense not only makes a mockery of all Mr Blair's talk of a modern, New Britain—but also shows just how chained to our own pasts we all are.

Still, perhaps the Prime Minister just needs to be patient. Perhaps, in time, the wounds inflicted in the Japanese prison camps will heal. Maybe that time will come, as some of the ex-PoWs themselves suggested yesterday, when they are all dead. When there are no living memories of the second world war, perhaps then that decade—which has cast its shadow over the entire century—will finally loosen its grip.

**T**HAT depends on where the survivors direct their energies. They might, like Hugo Gryn, dedicate themselves to telling and retelling their story, transmitting their memories to the next generation. Children seem quite able to absorb stories of the distant past and turn them into personal history. Witness the Jewish settlement of other types of capitalism, the Anglo-American free market has won out. But global laissez-faire has no longer winners. It is too volatile for that. Instead it seeks to transform all varieties of capitalism—including the American model whose victory is being trumpeted. America's bubble economy is acutely vulnerable to a worsening of Asia's troubles.

Japan is facing the onset of deflation. Like China it may judge that it has no option but to devalue its currency. The new phase of the Asian crisis we are now entering could be a prelude to a trade war—initiated by protectionists in the US Congress—and a major setback on Wall Street. In that event, with the sudden disappearance of considerable amounts of stockmarket-generated wealth, the triumph of the American model will surely follow the Asian tiger economies down the memory hole of history.

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## Sheep and goats

Polly Toynbee



**T**HE timetable for the pensions green paper has slipped to late in the year, amid secretive confusion. There's trouble with trying to make the sums work on the wildly optimistic pension reforms made in the election. The knowledgeable John Denham, pensions minister, has been sent back to think again by the Prime Minister, reportedly disappointed that the unthinkable has not been thought, the undoable left undone.

What's the problem? Only half the population are in Serps, occupational or personal pensions at all. Some have to be devised for the growing army on short-term contracts, in and out of work, or self-employed. So the current idea is to devise a new flexible personal scheme, privately run but under the Government's wing, with enough guaranteed participants to overcome the extra expense of handling small sums. People earning as little as £10,000 will be urged to join. It isn't decided—or not revealed—whether they will be forced to join, like those in permanent jobs, but the odds must be in favour of compulsion. A good idea, though many may have little spare to save.

But an even graver dilemma is with the poorest. One third of pensioners live on income support, whether they have earned a national insurance pension or not. The Government is planning a scheme to give the poor a stake, a pension right to build up, so that they won't have to draw means-tested benefits. As they are too poor to pay any money in there will be no fund, but they will earn a new better pension right.

Very low earners and part-timers will clock up free entitlements to a pension throughout their lives—as will mothers, carers, the sick and disabled out of the labour market. What will it earn them? A promise of a pension that is above income support level. It is, of course, only a promise to be redeemed by future governments in 40 years time. The value would depend on what income support levels might be in decades to come—and the unguessable state of mind of far-off governments.

**T**HE ordinary state pension has never yet reached as high as income support level. It was Beveridge's great failure that pensioners who paid national insurance stamps all their life, but have only the state pension, get topped up to exactly the same income support level as some wastrel who drank his life away. So a promise that they will always get a pension worth more than income support is a big step up. But more than what? Does that assume that income support will continue to be the miserly sum it is now?

the feckless who will receive less. It's sheep and goats time. The good sheep get rights to avoid the supposed stigma of means testing, while the worthless goats will be deliberately worse off.

This whole new edifice is based on a profoundly outdated idea about means-testing—positively old Labour. It assumes that noble pensioners are too proud to accept charity from the state. Why else do a million pensioners fail to draw benefits they're due, an average £18 a week each? However a new pilot project trying to find the missing pensioners is discovering scant reluctance through pride, but simple ignorance of their rights. (Most are claiming some benefits, but not all). So constructing an elaborate new system on the old pensioner pride theory would be a waste of time.

This new plan is an airy construct, done with mirrors, like most of the semi-derelect national insurance system. Like NI, there'll be no clear relation between a lifetime's stamps and what you get out. It's about putative rights, not real money. Under the new plan no money changes hands, because it makes no sense for the state to pay now into a genuine fund for the poor: there never has been a fund, for sound economic reasons—and governments tend to steal from any such pools of money. But money does change hands between the generations, for this plan promises that our children will be more generous towards selected "deserving" pensioners than we are now. What's more, the plan seems to do the right thing by existing poor pensioners.

Attitudes towards the scheme will depend on what you think of the remnants of national insurance. This will reinvent all the same prob-

lems for decades to come, creating automatic rights for people who may turn out not to be poor and not to need state aid on retirement. The universal pension now is increasingly paid out to better-off cohorts of retirees who don't need it, but still feel they've earned it. Like national insurance, this scheme mortgages the future, yet its promises are vague. The whole idea of acquiring life-time entitlements, which pay out regardless of need has had its day. Means-testing has to be where it's at, targeting most on those who need it, at the time they need it. We should not start a whole new generation of old national insurance problems.

Better by far just to pay more to all means-tested poor pensioners right now, and let the universal pension wither as fast as politically possible. Let future generations decide for themselves what to pay poor pensioners when that time comes. Better by far to apply a universal means test to everyone on retirement—relatively simple since pensioners' circumstances rarely change much. It's a good idea to start new genuinely funded personal pensions for those earning over £10,000. But Labour should forget this cumbersome insurance plan for the poorest and get on with doing the right thing by poor pensioners now.

Watch out for fallout in the west from economic turmoil in Asia

## Bad times coming

John Gray

**A**SIA'S economic crisis has not ended. It has been going on for generations and deeper phase that is bound to have serious repercussions for western economies. In a globalised economy, we must expect Asia's worsening economic difficulties to be propagated swiftly across much of the rest of the world. After all, that is what is meant by globalisation, is it not?

In fact globalisation can mean two very different things. It can mean simply the spread of modern industrial production throughout the world—an unstoppable historical process that has been going on for generations but which has accelerated in recent decades. When it is used by political and business leaders, however, globalisation usually refers to something else—worldwide economic deregulation and the universal reach of the Anglo-American free market. In this

latter sense, globalisation is not an inexorable historical trend. It is a neoliberal political project. That project may now be headed for a fall, the first signs of which can already be seen in Indonesia. The core of globalisation in the neoliberal sense is freeing up flows of capital from any kind of national—or for that matter transnational—regulation or control. But, as George Soros has been urging for many years, there is no tendency to equilibrium built into financial markets—if anything the opposite. History suggests that left to themselves financial markets are prone to speculative booms and devastating busts.

The Indonesian crisis shows how sudden large movements in deregulated currency markets can inflict profound and enduring economic hardship on entire populations. Perhaps the free flow of capital helped topple the spectacularly corrupt and oppressive Suharto regime. But the government of Suharto

appointed is no more democratically legitimate. The Habibie government looks less like a successor to the Suharto regime than its ragged tail-end.

While turmoil in Asian financial markets may have helped trigger Suharto's downfall, the long-term economic damage it did in Indonesia could well have ensured the emergence, perhaps after a period in which the country becomes near-unmanageable, of another authoritarian regime.

If the knock-on effects of Indonesia's crisis have not yet been felt fully across Asia, the reason is partly that China has not bowed to western pressure and surrendered

political control of its currency. But it is doubtful whether China can insulate itself for much longer. Its financial problems are daunting. China is currently undergoing the largest movement from country to town in human history. This enormous transformation is occurring at a time when unemployment has exceeded the 100 million mark and the economy is showing ominous signs of emerging deflation. Yet the Chinese government has embarked on an ambitious programme of privatisation whose opshot can only be still higher unemployment. In a system in which housing and other benefits are often tied to employment this is a recipe for large-scale unrest.

Will China's domestic problems, together with the deepening economic difficulties of its neighbours, compel it to devalue its currency? If so, what will that mean for the global economy?

Conventional opinion is confident that, if only by default, through the disarray or

John Gray is professor of European thought at the LSE



The good sheep get pension rights while the worthless goats will be worse off

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## The spectre persists

Sympathy is not enough

WHY IS IT so difficult to say sorry properly for what Japan did to British prisoners in the second world war? The effect of Emperor Akihito's "heartfelt" sympathy expressed at Buckingham Palace last night was marred in advance by reports of official diplomatic obfuscation. Tony Blair's inept intervention in yesterday's Sun newspaper, inviting us to seek reconciliation with the Japanese because, among other things, they like our pubs, made matters worse. The basic issues should not be in dispute. First, it is absolutely right to look ahead and not backwards. Second, the emperor is personally blameless for what happened when he was a child. Third, Japan and Britain have a thriving relationship which both sides wish to develop further. But fourth, the POWs were treated in a barbaric manner (as were Korean comfort women and hundreds of thousands of other Asians) for which they have never received adequate compensation, whether symbolic or financial. The difficulty over this state visit arises not because of the stubbornness of a small number of veterans, but because the governments concerned have failed to knit these issues into a single package.

The US-inspired Showa Constitution of November 1946 which reinstated the Japanese Imperial family defined the emperor as the "symbol of the state and of the unity of the people". Japanese diplomatic briefings have argued that he cannot make a full apology because he is precluded by the same constitution from making any type of

political statement. This is tendentious: the emperor cannot go further than the position adopted by the government of the Japanese state, but the government can change its position. The problem lies with the failure of successive administrations in Tokyo to do so. Mr Blair in the Sun makes much of the "courage" of Prime Minister "Ryu" Hashimoto (yes, they are on first name terms) in expressing "sorrow and regret" in his Sun article earlier this year. The fact is that this apology, like all previous ones, was deliberately muffled. Nor does it address the issue of compensation. British POWs received far less in the 1950s than the survivors of most other belligerent nations. British governments of the time did not make a fuss because they did not wish to upset relations in Washington's Far Eastern backyard. It may be true that under international law there is no ground for reopening the 1951 treaty which fixed the original sum. This should not rule out reconsideration as an exercise in goodwill.

It is not primarily the British obsession with the past which ensures this issue will not go away: it is because of a failure to deal with it properly in the past. Japan's ambiguous attitude towards its imperial history has in recent years been much diminished but it still inhibits clear remorse. The US must share responsibility because of the way it fostered right-wing Japanese politics after the war rather than run the risk of a socialist alternative. Nor will Western remorse for the use of the atomic bombs ever be properly considered while Japan fudges regret for its prior actions.

Not all of Japan wishes to go on dodging the issue. The respected Mainichi Daily News offered some good editorial advice on March 12 this year when the emperor's visit was being discussed. "The scars remain and are painful..." it said.

"Whether the Emperor can heal them by some spectacular act of repentance, by some promise of compensation, or even by a symbolic gesture, is doubtful. But he might try." He has not done so yet, but some such effort is still needed to exorcise the spectre of those wartime atrocities.

## EU job-hunting

The answer is demand

OVER THE past 20 years there has been no shortage of explanations for the alarming rise in European Union unemployment. Seminars have been held, learned papers commissioned, action plans drafted. No stone — apart from one — has been left unturned in the search for an explanation. The latest attempt at finding a cure to Europe's chronic problem began in Birmingham yesterday — a three-day shindig organised by the European Social Fund. Like the others it will doubtless conclude that Europe's problems lie with its grotesquely inflexible labour markets — that it costs too much to hire and fire labour, that unions are too powerful, that unemployment benefits are so generous there is no real incentive for the Euro-jobless to get on their bicycles and look for work.

Some of this analysis is undoubtedly true. Labour markets in parts of Europe are rigid and inflexible, particularly when compared to the free-wheeling anything-goes system that operates in the United States. But the argument as a whole doesn't really add up. European economies are no more inflexible than they were three decades ago; indeed, they are probably less so. It is wrong-headed to assume that France, Germany and the Netherlands have been immune from the Anglo-Saxon vogue for

deregulation, privatisation and de-unionisation during the 1980s and 1990s. Unemployment, according to the theory, should have been coming down, not going up.

The real problem with Europe has been that the obsession with monetary union meant that policy-makers have not been able to see the wood for the trees. It is not the malfunctioning of the labour market that is the prime cause of European unemployment, but a shortage of demand. What has happened is that a combination of high real interest rates, the knock-on effects of German reunification and the budgetary self-flagellation demanded by the Maastricht treaty have led to sharply lower growth. In the West as a whole, the annual growth in investment has halved from six per cent pre-1973 to 3 per cent post-1973, and this has coincided with a halving of the growth rate from 5.9 per cent to 2.8 per cent. Those countries with the biggest drop in their growth rates have suffered the biggest increase in unemployment.

So, is it all bad news for Europe's jobless? Actually, no. The encouraging news is that unemployment, while still worryingly high, is on the way down. But that is not because European labour markets have suddenly undergone a radical US-style liberalisation over the past 18 months: it is because interest rates have fallen, currencies have depreciated and — surprise, surprise — growth has picked up.

## Tudor tights

Short isn't beautiful

THE BRITISH male has always been a bit of a duffer when it comes to clothes, but it is only when the days start to get longer and warmer that we see him in all his dubious

unfashionable glory. At the first hint of summer, off comes the shirt to reveal acres of wobbling stomach, and on go the Union-Jack shorts to reveal two sorts of legs — the short spindly ones that look as if they are about to splinter under the strain at any moment and those that resemble the trunks of dwarf Californian redwoods. Both varieties tend to be horribly white and hairy.

As we show on the Guardian's fashion pages today, shorts are a serious mistake. They may be all right for Andre Agassi on the Centre Court, and there are women who swear that some members of Glenn Hoddle's World Cup are worth a second glance. But for most men there is one simple rule on wearing shorts: Don't.

Why is it that men seem to have this incurable urge to get out of trousers on hearing the first cuckoo? And was it always thus? The first answer is that nobody really knows. It could be that men are secretly trying to rediscover their childhood; it could be that they are so egotistical that they don't really care how bad they look. As to the second question, there was indeed a time when men could have worn shorts with aplomb. Portraits of 16th-century men suggest that they had rather fetching legs beneath their doublet and hose, and that even Henry VIII — who was a bit of a fatty from the waist up — had a nice set of pins. By contrast, women had what by today's standards would be considered ghastly legs, concealed by their long dresses; it was only as hemlines went up that they came under pressure to have legs up to their armpits.

The moral of this story is that if men really are going to reveal their knobby knees and their bulging thighs, they will have to be trained by evolution to have decent legs. Before Men In Shorts we need Men In Tights for a century or so. Either that or a run of very wet summers.

## Letters to the Editor

### Slaughter and the arms code

THOUGHT Labour favoured elected mayors with executive powers (Council to get first US-style city boss, May 26). Awarding a mayor £40,000 a year and dispensing with two-thirds of his colleagues should only follow popular endorsement, and open competition for the top job. But isn't this the same Andrew Slaughter who failed to win voters' support in the Uxbridge by-election last year? Ann Black, Oxford.

YOU say (Raising hell at the Abbey, May 26) the former Dean of Winchester is among "the prestigious group of supporters" that sprang to the defence of Martin Neary, the sacked organist. As a former canon of Westminster and as Dean of Winchester during Martin Neary's reign there, I have refrained from taking sides. I suspect your reporters have confused me with a former canon of Winchester who is now Dean of Guildford. Trevor Beeson, Dean Emeritus of Winchester.

PERL Symonds's "way forward" for dealing with multinationals (Letters, May 26): the nation state is too feeble. Burma or North Korea are not win-win examples of going it alone. The tool we could forge is a federal European Union. Raymond Le Croy, Canterbury, Kent.

SO "exports should not be allowed to states that might use them for external aggression, internal repression or supporting terrorism" (Anger as arms code is diluted, May 26). Since there are no other uses for arms, should this not mean a complete ban on all arms' sales? Mike Lawson, Kelsall, Cheshire.

## Prisoners of history

WHILE memories of wartime Japanese atrocities remain vivid for many (Japanese to challenge ex-POWs, May 26), they did not loom large in the minds of politicians at the time. Within weeks of their surrender, Lord Mountbatten was using over 120,000 Japanese troops to support British occupation forces in Vietnam and the Dutch East Indies. In Vietnam, they fought against Ho Chi Minh's Vietcong and paved the way for the return of the French. In the Indies, they helped suppress Indonesian nationalists, and guarded British, Dutch and American oil wells and plantations, and were so well regarded that one, a Major Kido, was recommended for the DSO in November 1945.

Japanese forces, commanded by British officers, allowed the British to concentrate on recovering their Asian empire. The Japanese lost over 1,000 men in the Indies. Andrew Roadnight, University of Warwick.

THE following text on a monument outside the war cemetery at Kanchanburi is a little known expression of contrition: "This monument was erected by the then Japanese Army in February 1944.

during World War II, in memory of the personnel of the Allied Forces together with other people who died during the construction of the Thailand Burma Railway. Once a year in March, voluntary members of the Japanese community in Thailand assemble here to hold a memorial ceremony for those who died." Angela Sinclair, London.

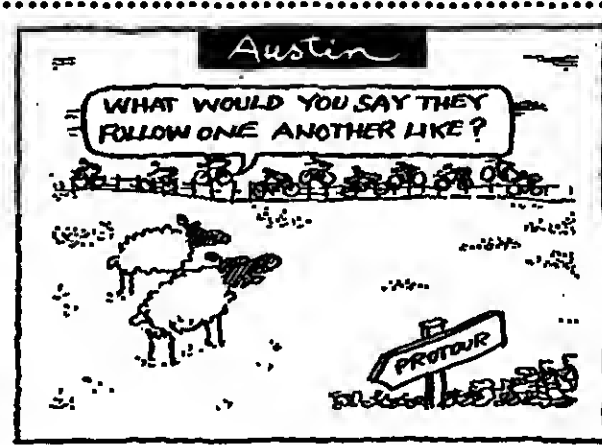
WHAT if the 1,800 indigenous inhabitants of Diego Garcia who were not even in the war, but were displaced by Britain and removed thousands of miles to Mauritius and the Seychelles, were to also demand an apology and reparations? Hameed Moolla, Nalae, Somerset.

WHILE there is no doubt surrounding the cruelty suffered by POWs at the hands of the Japanese Army in the second world war, what the protest organisations are advocating is jingoism. If anything, the clamour for compensation should be put to the British government, which agreed to the compensation amount in 1951.

One cannot help but feel that this campaign has been influenced by our "compensation culture". The notion that a sum of money will make everything okay is morally repugnant. What also seems to be forgotten is the horrendous things that were done to the Japanese civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. David Whyte and Michael Maxwell, Manchester.

YOUR article about the state visit refers to this Chamber, with the Japan Society, co-ordinating a "Japanese counter-offensive" to get Japanese firms in London to mobilise their employees to turn out in the Mall to swamp a demonstration by former prisoners of war. This Chamber has not been involved in any such initiative. The Chamber's role in the visit is limited to co-hosting with other organisations representing both the Japanese and British, a reception in honour of the Emperor and Empress on May 28. Patrick Macartney, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, London.

YOU refer, encouragingly, to "Mr Akihito". I hope he will be received appropriately by Mrs Windsor. Giles Hibbert, Chapel-en-le-Frith.



## Microsoft taxes computer users

SAAC Khabeza (Letters, May 26) is disingenuous in his defence of Microsoft. It's certainly true that banks NatWest and Nationwide use Microsoft's Windows software for Internet banking services. And this cosy relationship demonstrates how non-Windows computers are effectively shut out from such online services. For example, I'm a long-standing customer of Nationwide and have a Mainframe computer. Use of specialist Windows software automatically excludes me from Nationwide's Internet banking service. Dr Duncan Langford, Canterbury, Kent.

Windows CE ubiquitous in consumer electronics, so soon we will be paying a Microsoft tax on everything, from televisions to cars. Richard Tobin, Edinburgh.

HAVING just spent four years on a training project for Bosnian refugees in Croatia, I have reservations about Jane Falcenic's idea for shipping the West's used computers to refugees. Spares are likely to be a problem. In Croatia, we used computers bought in the country with local back-up arrangements. Furthermore, they were PCs with Windows 95, in general usage in the country, and thus the training was immediately useful. Ian Hamilton, Richmond.

WHY not use such "obsolete" but working computers to equip our schools for the next millennium? Primary schools would particularly benefit from such a scheme — especially if it could be co-ordinated nationally. Matthew Goodyear, Gerrard Junior School, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

## Fewer fingers in the pie might jazz up the Arts Council

I WAS amused to read of the lamentations of Lady Macmillan and Thelma Holt (Arts Council revolt grows, May 22) for they reinforce the view of Edmund Burke that "it is a general popular error to imagine the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare". The power and influence exercised by the Council members is identified in the Arts Council report and accounts 1996-97. Of the 22 Council members mentioned, 15 had a relationship with companies in receipt of Arts Council funding. In all, 28.5 per cent of the parliamentary grant-in-aid of £165 million went to those organisations with which the 15 Council members had a declared interest. The national companies (South Bank, Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera and English National Ballet) totalled £68.6 million of grant-in-aid, £48.8 million of which (71 per cent) went to

those organisations with which four Council members had declared an interest.

The accounts note that Adventures in Motion Pictures — of which Thelma Holt is a director — received £120,000 and Thelma Holt Limited was in receipt of £226,941. Thelma Holt was also an Arts Council member at that time.

At last the governance of the Arts Council has been scrutinised and found wanting. It is to be hoped that the new Council will operate in a transparent manner so that it is the arts and the taxpayer that are best served. With a new accountable Arts Council, jazz might finally get a place in the sun. Chris Hodgkins, Director, Jazz Services, London.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters. The Country Olerly is on page 10.

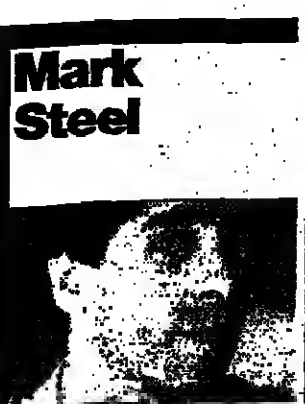
## A definitive view of the Shack

IN fact, John Seely, second Lord Mottistone, left Mottistone Manor to the National Trust and his half-share of The Shack to Paul Paget who, with him, had designed and built this ingenious little workshop-chalet (The Shack looks down on its attendant house, May 26). Paul Paget then left it and its contents to me. Lord Mottistone's family

begged me to keep it to entice my grandchildren to the late of Wright in the holidays, but it seemed such an apt reminder of the way the partners worked in harmony at such close quarters that I decided to hand it to the Trust with the proviso that an appropriate notice, or these lines should appear in or beside the Shack. The Shack was designed

by John Seely, 2nd Lord Mottistone, and Paul Paget, successive Surveyors to the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral, as a retreat from their London offices in Cloth Fair. Here, at this drawing-board and desk, they worked on many of their major achievements throughout their 40 years' partnership. Donated to the National Trust in their memory by Paul Paget's widow in 1987. Verity Anderson, Norfolk.

## A sorry excuse



MAYBE the Japanese Emperor once lived with my old flatmate. Which is how no point in apologising. My flatmate would drain the engine of his motor bike to go up the pub, and one night, because he'd run out of drugs, he smoked my rubber plant. Whenever he was questioned about any of these episodes, he would collapse into a theat-

rical flurry of regret, apologising profusely before carrying on as normal. One day, about an hour after a particularly moving plea for forgiveness, he put an axe through the banisters and shouted: "Brilliant. Now I can get my Ducati 500 right into the hallway."

So it's a relief that world leaders don't apologise after every atrocity. It's bad enough that the Americans flattened Nicaragua without adding the insult of saying "Look I'm sorry, I was going through a really bad time with my girlfriend and my head just wasn't together. Good luck with rebuilding the village."

But with the Japanese, they must also feel it's a shade unfair that the demand for second world war-related apologies is all one way, as if they're taking part in one of those domestic rows that have abandoned all logic. "I hope you're going to apologise."

"What, me apologise? I've had two atom bombs dropped on me." "Oh, that's typical. Me, me, where you're concerned, isn't it?" The Sun got round this puzzle by demanding that the Japanese should also apologise to their own people because "the imperialism of their wartime leaders led to the dropping of two atom bombs". As if President Truman was like a parent who sees his teenager, and the mushroom cloud grew over Hiroshima shouted "Now look what you've made me do!"

The veterans who demonstrated against Emperor Akihito have every right to feel aggrieved, but there are clues that the story of their demonstration has hidden the point of their anger.

Firstly, a number of them opposed yesterday's demonstration, and many of those who took part stressed that they didn't wish to offend the Emperor himself. The result was the mildest and most English form of protest, so that even the Queen, if my lipreading was accurate, said to Akihito as it happened: "You're lucky, mate, I usually get a bare arse in the face."

Also, while they obviously have great contempt for the commanders who put them through misery, behind every interview and display of appalling photos lies another resentment.

FOR they may have been tortured by an empire represented by Akihito, but the woman stood next to him yesterday represents the empire that sent them there in the first place. And they've been rewarded with decaying social services and busted lifts in tower blocks. If we saw television pictures of a pensioner before and after the link to wages was removed, we'd all say: "Oh isn't that terrible. Look how skinny it's become since they've been wasting it away. There's hardly anything left of it."

So it's a final insult when the Emperor is given a Knight of the Royal Garter on his first visit. They could at least have made him go through the same procedure that most pensioners have to go through to claim a few quid on disability benefit. So that he'd be down at the town hall, with a clerk saying: "Sorry mate, the woman who deals with loyal garters isn't in for another month. You can try Parks and Gardens if you like. And you'll need to fill out another form to prove that you are loyal and that you can't do without a garter."

Many veterans will also know that the West doesn't need state visits to become friendly with Japanese emperors. At the end of the war, the American occupying forces in Japan went to great lengths to protect Hirohito against a Communist uprising. Yesterday's ceremony was a tale of two governments who went to war for their own interests, and then resumed chumminess while neglecting the victims from both sides.

So the veterans' demand for an apology is in part a demand for respect, from their own leaders as well as the Japanese.

Besides, if countries should provide welfare as compensation for past atrocities, Britain would be bankrupted by what we'd have to give to Africa. And the Aborigines. And India. And Cyprus. Iran. Iraq. Sri Lanka. Burma. Vietnam. Argentina for the Belgians. Greece for nicking their marbles. And Germany now there's new film that shows the hell wasn't over the line.

But the most alarming aspect of yesterday's visit was the extent of Blair's enthusiasm. You can't help worrying that it's led Blair to look into the policies of the Japanese in 1942, and that he's thinking "Well, you can't deny the Burmese railway helped get people off benefits and into work." Give it a few weeks and he'll announce another new deal, starting with a television advert which features a general saying "If one general decided to build a bridge over the River Kwai — they'd say he was mad..."

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P.W. Manchester

## Dances with words

THE BALLET critic P.W. Manchester, who has died of a stroke in Cincinnati aged 91, was also an editor, a teacher of ballet history and the mentor to a generation of English critics. Born and educated in London, she was christened Phyllis Winifred, names she greatly disliked, and preferred always to be known as "Bill", the nickname given by her father — and it was as Bill Manchester that this elegant, serene woman was known throughout the ballet world, first here and then in America.

Her ballet-going began with the late Dischneider seasons in London and continued throughout the 1930s, when she saw all the various companies that assumed the title of Ballet Russe, as well as watching the entire development of British ballet from its very earliest days — at Marie Rambert's Ballet Club and Ninette de Valois's Vic-Wells (now Royal) Ballet. It was called Vic-Wells because the company initially appeared in the theatres managed by Lilian Baylis, the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells.

Manchester's first published writings were drama criticism for the magazine Theatre World between 1941 and 1943. During the war years, she wrote, from her diary, her travel book *Yiddish in America*, a *Ballet Progress*, which was also the first de-

tailed history and appraisal of the company, charting its progress from the beginning in 1931, and venturing a cautious prophecy about the status it would one day achieve.

The book became the non-fiction bestseller of 1942. It appeared at the height of the wartime ballet boom and was devoured by audiences — no nonsense in those days about ballet being elitist — and dancers alike. Bill was touched to learn that Sir Peter Wright, the former director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, had placed his copy in the time capsule buried in the foundations of the new Sadler's Wells as a memento of its history.

On the strength of this book, Marie Rambert invited Bill to become her secretary. Sharing a love of English literature and an ability to quote Shakespeare's sonnets to each other, they became friends, and her husband, the playwright Ashley Dukes, said she was the only person working in his Mercury Theatre with whom he could hold an intelligent conversation.

In 1946, Bill left Rambert to edit the new publication, *Ballet Today*, for which she not only wrote herself but commissioned reviews and work from many young writers — herself and Clive Barnes among them. Under her guidance, until 1951, the

magazine was both respected and influential. The phrase used about what was then the Manchester Guardian thinks "what Manchester thinks today, London thinks tomorrow" — was adapted to herald her reviews.

In 1951, with her magazine facing financial problems, Bill accepted an invitation from the Russian-American editor Anatole Chuijov to join him as managing editor of his New York newspaper, *Dance News*. She wrote most of the reviews and, never swayed by fashionable taste, was universally respected for her honesty and integrity. At a time when George Balanchine was revered there, she said exactly what she thought about his less successful creations — to his great annoyance.

WITH Chuijov, Bill edited the second edition of his pioneering *Dance Encyclopedia* (1967), and continued to manage *Dance News* until Chuijov's death in 1969, carrying virtually all responsibility during the years of his declining illness. After his death, she sold the paper, which he had willed to her, and became guest lecturer in dance history at the University of Cincinnati's newly formed dance division. She taught there until 1974, when she retired in 1974, retiring in 1993 with

the title of professor emerita of the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

Bill's other books were *The Rose and the Star* (1948), co-written with Iris Morley, in which they discussed for the first time in depth the respective qualities of British and Soviet ballet. Later came the critical text for Roger Wood's book of photographs of New York City Ballet's London performances during the two seasons 1950 and 1952.

After taking up residence in America, Bill became an avid baseball fan. She arrived in New York around the same time that Willie Mays, a player she adored, went up to the New York Giants. She spent her last years in a Cincinnati retirement community, but remained very much a part of that city's dance world. She had attended a party for her compatriot, the dancer Frederic Franklin, only six days before she suffered the stroke which was to prove fatal.

She returned to England many times; her last visit was to take part in the celebrations of Dame Ninette de Valois' 90th birthday, just 10 years ago.

Mary Clarke

Phyllis Winifred "Bill" Manchester, critic and teacher, born December 7, 1906; died May 18, 1998

### Mordechai Strigler

## Memories of Yiddish

THE title of the magazine opus of Mordechai Strigler, who has died aged 74, was *Oysgebreit Likh* (Extinguished Light) and it may well stand as his epitaph. With his death, the ever-diminishing world of Yiddish literature has become even smaller.

Strigler was a remarkably prolific poet, essayist, newspaper editor, short story writer and chronicler of the Holocaust. He represented a genre, indeed a civilisation, which began this century with such fanfare and ends it virtually eclipsed.

Since 1967 he edited the legendary American socialist newspaper, *Forverts* (Forward), the oldest Yiddish newspaper in the world. He was a committed secularist, yet he could never quite escape the lure of Orthodoxy. Often his columns dealt with Jewish philosophy, or *responsa* literature — the questions people ask rabbis. He was also one of the last generation of East European educated, non-Israeli authors to write in Hebrew.

Strigler was born into a Hassidic Jewish farming household in Zamosce, Poland. One of eight siblings, he studied at the Kletsk yeshiva (rabbinic academy). At 16, he became secretary to a Warsaw rabbi and taught the Talmud in his spare time. He always loved to share his intellectual curiosity with others.

The Holocaust permanently altered his life. From the outbreak of war in 1939, Strigler fought alongside other Polish partisans in Warsaw. He was arrested by German border guards, who carved a swastika on his forehead, and spent the rest of the war in a concentration camp. At Buchenwald, he joined the underground resistance. Despite the horrors, he taught children and organised literary evenings where inmates "whispered poems and bits of history" in order to keep their minds from dying, as the American Jewish repor-

ter Meyer Levin wrote. Strigler also lost both parents and three sisters to the Nazi extermination machine.

Afterwards he felt compelled to write about the greatest disaster to befall the Jewish people. In 1945, at a time when most survivors were too stunned to breach the silence, Strigler, a modest man by nature, penned an essay, *Letter from Buchenwald*. "It made an impression I remember to this day," said Joseph Motek, who later became his deputy editor in New York.

After the war, Strigler shepherded Jewish orphans to Paris. In 1947 he published the first of six volumes, to be called collectively *Oysgebreit Likh*. These personal reminiscences of the Holocaust, rendered in quasi-poetical style, were completed in 12 years, before Elie Wiesel

and Primo Levi hroached the subject.

From 1946 to 1951, Strigler also edited a Yiddish paper in Paris, *Unzer Vort* (Our Word). He became an American almost by accident when he decided to stay in New York after a lecture tour in 1952. From then until 1995 he edited the Labour Zionist weekly, *Der Yidisher Kemfer* (The Jewish Fighter), which gave a literary platform to Isaac Bashevis Singer.

At the same time, he contributed to *Forverts*, writing under 20 different pseudonyms. Together with 14 books, he published thousands of articles and novellas, many with wonderfully alluring titles like *Islands on the Earth*, *Conversations with Time*, *The Messiah's Donkey*, *In a Foreign Generation*, and *From Beginning to Beginning*. Strigler joined the *Forverts*

staff in 1968 and became its general editor in 1967. But by then its circulation had fallen from more than a quarter million in the 1920s to just 10,000. Yiddish was dying out; the Holocaust had decimated most of its readers. Israel had opted for modern Hebrew, and American Jews bent on assimilation largely shunned it as a shadow of the past.

Even so, Strigler was determined to keep alive the language and culture the Nazis wanted to destroy. To him Yiddish was more than just an East European Jewish vernacular based on a template of medieval German with added lashings of Hebrew, Russian, French and Turkish. It was the *mamekosh* (mother tongue), the foundation of Jewish identity, which uniquely expressed the Ashkenazi Jewish psyche. In Yiddish, Strigler could convey "not only heroic deeds or heavenly matters, but inner woe, deep psychological struggle and the human suffering of a great soul," as another critic, Y. Rapoport, put it.

In 1990, a separate English language sister paper, *The Forward*, was launched, which is rapidly winning a reputation for feisty campaigning. Strigler's Yiddish language edition too — a "gateway to American culture" just like *Forverts* was when it first appeared in 1937.

The Yiddish archivist Dina Abramowitz has described Strigler as "an intellectual with deep Jewish roots (yet also a very modern man. He went through hell, but somehow he was able to recover ... and transmit the heritage of Polish Jewry."

Strigler banded away at his 60-year-old Yiddish typewriter to the end — a Yiddish fighter and a citizen of the world. He is survived by his wife Esther, daughter Leah, and two sisters.

Lawrence Joffe

Mordechai Strigler, poet, essayist and editor, born September 18, 1923; died May 10, 1998



Wordsmith... Strigler at his 60-year-old Yiddish typewriter

### A Country Diary

EAST ANGLIA: I heard my first nightingales this spring in exactly the same spot as I heard the very first of my life, 30 years ago. I doubt there's been a year when they haven't returned to the corner of Salthouse Heath on the North Norfolk coast, deep in the blackthorn scrub by the crossroads. Even as a performance they conjured up echoes of that first encounter; a drab,

overcast morning, the heath quiet except for fiftal warbler phrases, then the sudden, electrifying flare of notes from an invisible bird in the bush. There was even, as then, a second bird, answering and challenging the first, swapping and repeating those luscious phrases. I found this long thread of continuity oddly comforting. But much later in May it was a more unexpected, unearthly bird that enchanted me. A friend who lives in Suffolk's Stour

Valley phoned to say that he had a nightingale singing in his garden. I know what his garden is like and made the 80-mile dash without a second thought. Attached to a medieval farmhouse, it is an oasis among the arable fields, a bell-jar of riotous greenery and ancient roses. The nightingale kept its peace for hours, but just before midnight its jug-jug-jug floated ethereally down. It was singing near the pond, where there is a dense tangle of willow and nettles,

and was a bird of reflective, short phrases, a one-year-old probably. On this cool, still night, masked by trees and arching, almost luminous roses, it somehow sounded somnolent and distantly spiritual all at once. Nightingales sing in this place many decades ago, so perhaps this was another sign of continuity rejoined, and that nightingale populations may have turned the corner in their downward spiral.

RICHARD MABEY

### CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A PHOTOGRAPH which we said showed Erskine Childers, Page 3, May 23, was actually of his son, Erskine Childers (Junior). The latter became president of Ireland in 1978 and died in office in 1979. It was his father who was Clerk to the Commons, a sailor, spy and later an Irish nationalist who was executed by the Free State government for being in possession of a pistol given to him by Michael Collins — not for being a British agent.

IN A report on Page 8 yesterday, headed TV producer has heart attack, we said, "Yesterday after having an angioplasty operation, in which veins from his leg were grafted on to his coronary artery..." Angioplasty, to which it was intended to refer, is the surgical repair of a damaged blood-vessel, a blocked or narrow artery, involving the insertion and inflation of a small balloon. The operation in which veins are grafted is a bypass.

OUR ACCOUNT of a survey to correct errors as soon as possible, *Readers' Editor*, by telephoning 0171 235 5539 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, Surface mail to *Readers' Editor*, The Guardian, 118, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 235 5987. E-mail: [readers@guardian.co.uk](mailto:readers@guardian.co.uk)

per cent included food; 23 per cent tobacco.

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### Chris Griffin-Beale

## Information channel

SIXTEEN years ago, Chris Griffin-Beale, who has died of a suspected heart attack aged 50, joined Channel 4 television. He was its first press officer, hand-picked by the channel's founder, Jeremy Isaacs, to handle what became a hugely difficult launch. At that time he was "the press officer"; he was to remain there for the rest of his life.

The role expanded as Channel 4 grew up and Griffin-Beale moved with his staff into its pristine new headquarters in Horseferry Road, Victoria. But he never grew grand or remote, or forgot its muddled Charlotte Street roots. As one of the channel's founders/survivors, he had a valuable asset: an unrivalled knowledge of its programmes and history.

Griffin-Beale bore the brunt of the 1982 storm when Channel 4's first Christmas schedule included a programme on homosexual lifestyles, the first to show on television what it means to be positively gay. In January 1983 he escorted a lurking journalist intent on filing a "crisis over 4" story from the bushes as staff held a tense weekend strategy conference near Ascot.

Because he was the point of contact — the person who discussed publicising the upcoming programmes with their makers — he gained a supreme knowledge of the early movers and shakers in the independent sector, including a young talent — the future chief executive, Michael Jackson.

A distinctive, unglamorous



Griffin-Beale... taking risks

figure, Griffin-Beale always seemed out of breath and a bit flustered. Those who worked with him say he was a bad delegator and affectionately compared him with the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* — always rushing, always late. In his crumpled suits and wire-rimmed spectacles, he was the antithesis of the cool spin doctor — which is why reporters like myself trusted him. He was genuine, wanted to help, had a lot of energy, always returned calls and worried away over small details. He furthered the channel, not himself.

I last saw him less than a week ago and oddly we talked about his decision to join Channel 4 all those years ago. He seemed more than happy with his lot. Everyone should take a risk, he said, and it had been worth taking. And he was pleased to see Jackson heading new life into the channel.

Griffin-Beale was born with public service broadcasting in his blood; his father had worked for the BBC, and

passed on to him a full set of the *Radio Times*, which he treasured. He graduated in English with Russian from Sussex University in 1969, having edited the campus television programme. After researching programmes for the BBC, he became a freelance writer on broadcasting for publications, including the *Guardian*. He became deputy editor of *Broadcast*, the magazine for television professionals, before joining Channel 4.

Griffin-Beale loved to lunch and had a happy, secure home life in Southfields, south London. A very human, modest man, he loved to talk about family matters. He is survived by his wife, Lucy, and three daughters.

Michael Grade, the channel's chief executive from 1987 to 1997, called him "the most respected media corporate press chief". And Griffin-Beale's epitaph is that he had more influence than either he or Channel 4 probably ever realised.

Maggie Brown

Chris Griffin-Beale, born October 7, 1947; died May 23, 1998

### Talat Mahmood

## Velvet voice of India

THE singer and actor Talat Mahmood, who has died aged 74, took *ghazal* *ghayal*, the musical rendering of Urdu poetry, from the Indian avant-garde to the masses. His silken voice dominated Indian cinema during its golden era of the 1950s. He mixed pain and softness within his voice with a sophisticated delivery.

Born and educated in Lucknow, Talat belonged to a business family. After graduation from the Morris College of Music, he started singing for All-India Radio, Lucknow. He released his first record in Calcutta when he was barely 15 and he achieved national fame a few years later with what is still one of the biggest selling non-film discs, *Tasseer teri dil mara* (Your picture alone will not soothe my heart).

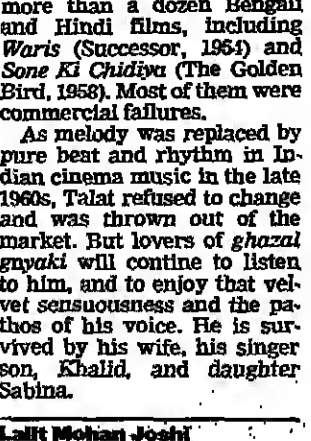
Instant fame led him to join Calcutta's New Theatre, where, besides singing, he acted and met his future wife, Lata Mangeshkar. The Hindustani music style that followed partition led them to settle in Bombay.

Talat was given his first break in 1960 by the veteran music director Anil Biswas in *Arzoo* (Desire), and came from the film to become a national hit. His next three films established him as the voice of the rising star Dilip Kumar. Some of that period's best lyrics — penned by poets like Sabir, Shailendra, Rajendra Krishan and Rafi Azmi — were voiced by Talat. By the mid-1960s, music maestros like Anil Biswas and SD Burman vied to sign him up. He also acted in more than a dozen Bengali and Hindi films, including *Waris* (Successor, 1964) and *Sone Ki Chidiya* (The Golden Bird, 1968). Most of them were commercial failures.

As melody was replaced by pure beat and rhythm in Indian cinema music in the late 1960s, Talat refused to change and was thrown out of the market. But lovers of *ghazal* *ghayal* will continue to listen to him, and to enjoy that velvet sensuousness and the pathos of his voice. He is survived by his wife, his singer son, Khalid, and daughter Sabina.

Lalit Mohan Joshi

Talat Mahmood, singer and actor, born February 24, 1924; died May 3, 1998



Talat Mahmood... Urdu poetry

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مكتبة الامم



# Analysis E-commerce

The masters of the wired catalogue of the 21st century will have the potential to make the type of fortune achieved by Sears Roebuck and Littlewoods in an earlier era. **Alex Brummer** reports.

## Dash for cash in the online market place

**T**HERE comes a point with a technological process when the world wakes up to the possibilities of what can be achieved. A decade ago the cell phone was a bulky item of limited range, high cost and minority interest. Now it is everywhere as much a fashion item as the wristwatch as the cost, access and availability of mobile networks has expanded exponentially.

The personal computer and its communicator with the rest of the world, the modem, have been around for nearly two decades now. But it was only in the mid 1990s with the explosive growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web that the possibilities for commercial development of these facilities have opened.

Almost everyone has recognised that the opportunities are there. Media groups, like the Guardian, have seen their site on the web as a means of providing a depth and quality of information, which it is impossible to pack into a broadsheet paper.

Political parties like Labour, during the 1997 election, saw its web site as a critical way of targeting younger voters. Universities have recognised the value of e-mail for far speedier intellectual exchanges and large corporations are using their web sites for disseminating information to shareholders, suppliers and customers.

It has long been recognised that the holy grail of the World Wide Web is e-commerce — doing business over the web. But while companies in the computer field, like Dell long ago realised their web site was a cool way of reaching potential customers, more traditional manufacturers, retailers and providers of financial services have trodden warily down the e-commerce route.

In many ways, however, e-commerce for consumers is simply part of a continuum which dates back to the last century and catalogue/mail order shopping. Some of the greatest fortunes of the 20th century, including that of the Wolfson family in Britain, have been built on mail order. The busy or rural customer found it easier to shop from a catalogue delivered to the

home and offering easy credit terms, rather than travelling to the high street.

In recent times with the increasing number of families with single parents or two working parents — and less time — downmarket catalogue retailing has been replaced with the highly fashionable home shopping concept.

The masters of the wired catalogue of the 21st century potentially will have the possibility of making the same fortunes, as Sears Roebuck, Littlewoods and Empire have in the past.

This is clearly the nettle which Gap, the San Francisco based clothing group, is seeking to grasp. Gap with its focus on "preppy" American style from the chino pants and button down cotton shirts was a fashion winner on the high streets of the US and the UK until imitators, who saw their market share falling, moved onto its patch.

The decision by Gap to launch itself onto the World Wide Web is an attempt to stay ahead of the predators moving into its territory. It is counting on an overlap between its upper-income level young customers and Internet users. Statistically it would appear to be on the right track.

A just published Department of Trade & Industry study (1) provides some impressive data. The proportion of population, not just with PCs but actually online, is rising. In the United States, the world's largest consumer of goods, some 21 per cent of the population is now reckoned to be online, with Britain in its wake with 10 per cent followed by Japan, Germany and France — with the penetration much lower in the latter three countries.

The critical mass of Internet users has driven corporations worldwide to set up a presence on the World Wide Web. According to the DTI data Japanese companies have surged into the lead on this front with 45 per cent of them now having a presence on the web. They are followed by US firms where 41 per cent of companies have web sites and the UK where the numbers have reached 37 per cent.

This is not just some passing fad for commerce. Busi-

ness has learnt over recent decades that information technology is a critical key to commercial success on any scale. In the City of London the arrival of screen based markets is driving the old open outcry form of trading off the map as is currently being seen on the options and futures market, Life.

Nearly all share transactions, whether they are conducted by big investors like the Prudential, or the small investors, are now done electronically. An increasing volume of small shareholders are checking their share prices online. Moreover, they have signed up with financial services companies who provide them with programmes which allow them to deal in shares electronically; e-commerce is making popular capitalism that much easier.

In fact the financial services companies, building on the experience seen in markets, are among the first to see the opportunity of the Internet. They have responded to a public demand for facilities where consumers can pay their bills, select their insurance products and carry out banking transactions in their own homes.

**S**EVERAL technologies are currently vying for supremacy. Direct selling down the telephone has been a winner with companies like Midland's First Direct and the Royal Bank of Scotland's Direct Line, the first out of the starting traps. Barclays Bank, only last week, launched screen based financial service using telephones, a mid-point between telephone banking and PC banking. Lloyds TSB have been experimenting with video based home banking in Kingston upon Hull, in which the television zap becomes the link to the bank.

Most of the banks, which are already offering software packages to small and medium sized business to carry out their commercial transactions, will soon be doing the same for consumers. Nobody is certain, as yet, as to what the dominant financial services technology will be. But as more people are con-

nected to the web and the cost of being connected falls, the PC — because of its enormous capacity and speed — offers perhaps an opportunity.

There are, however, all kinds of resistances to be overcome. Before e-commerce becomes a serious challenger to the high street, among the most difficult to overcome are complexity and cost.

The whole row between Bill Gates and the US Justice Department focuses partly on whether Microsoft can deliver the World Wide Web to the consumer more cheaply and simply through its web browser or whether there are other providers in the marketplace who have better technologies and simpler means of doing the same task.

Similarly getting onto the Web in the UK is limited by the capacity of the copper as opposed to the fibre optic

cabling into the home offered by British Telecom. Hence BT is conducting a big push to switch computer users onto more expensive ISDN lines which provide more capacity, better signals and are more efficient. In many ways the telecoms industry and the Internet service providers like Demon (recently sold to Scottish Telecom) are running hard simply to keep up with the spread of the web and the numbers of Internet users. Some US telecoms like WorldCom, which spotted the web commercial opportunity early, have built their enterprises from ground up in a marketplace which is still in its infancy.

In pure practical terms a constraint on consumer e-commerce is security. Consumers worldwide have been concerned that credit card and other banking data put onto the web, to make purchase at

the globe's largest bookshop Amazon or buy an insurance policy from the Norwich Union, will leave behind a footprint which even the novice hacker could decipher.

The UK government announced only last month (2) that it had dropped a mandatory licensing scheme, offering companies guaranteed safe trading on the Internet, and had decided to go with a voluntary scheme instead. This would promote measures like "electronic signatures" to authenticate electronic trading documents. It was required to abandon a more formal approach after it found that many companies saw compulsory encryption as difficult to operate. Until the corporate sector can be assured that electronic contracts are valid and the consumer that their finances will not be plundered, this will be

a naturally limiting factor on e-commerce.

Other problems for e-commerce include pricing strategies and social impact. In terms of pricing a company like Gap, with prices set differently in the US and Britain will have to decide if they are willing to give up margin — higher prices — for success on the web.

But perhaps the most overwhelming difficulty of all for the World Wide Web is that it is not democratic. The cost inhibiting factor from telephone lines to subscriptions to Internet providers means that it is only easily available to the better off the A and B income groups with a smattering below.

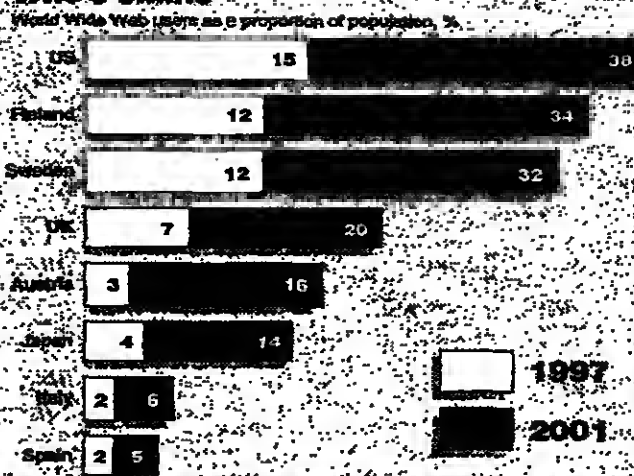
That may be great commercially, but will increase the gap between the haves and have-nots in society (3). The Ford Model-T has yet to be discovered. Until telecoms and

communications regulators and providers can devise a means of providing universal service at a lower price, e-commerce will be a divisive technology.

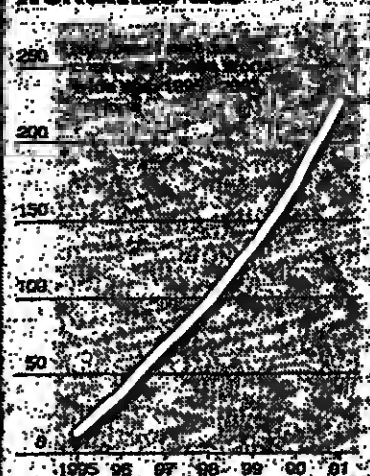
**Sources:** (1) Moving into the Information Age, Department of Trade and Industry April 1998 <http://www.dti.gov.uk/> (2) Financial Times 27 April 1998 page 12 (3) The Information Society: Getting it Right For Consumers, National Consumer Council April 1998 <http://www.ncc.gov.uk/> Graphics sources: International Data Corporation, 1997 World Fact Book at <http://www.odci.gov/publications/nsoc/vrb-ef.html>; Forrester Research Inc; Graphical Steve Vickers; Researcher Matthew Keating. Additional reporting by Nicholas Barviller. Alex Brummer is the Financial Editor of the Guardian and co-author of 'Weirdest: The Life and Times of Britain's Premier Industrialist'.

## Shopping in cyberspace

Who's online



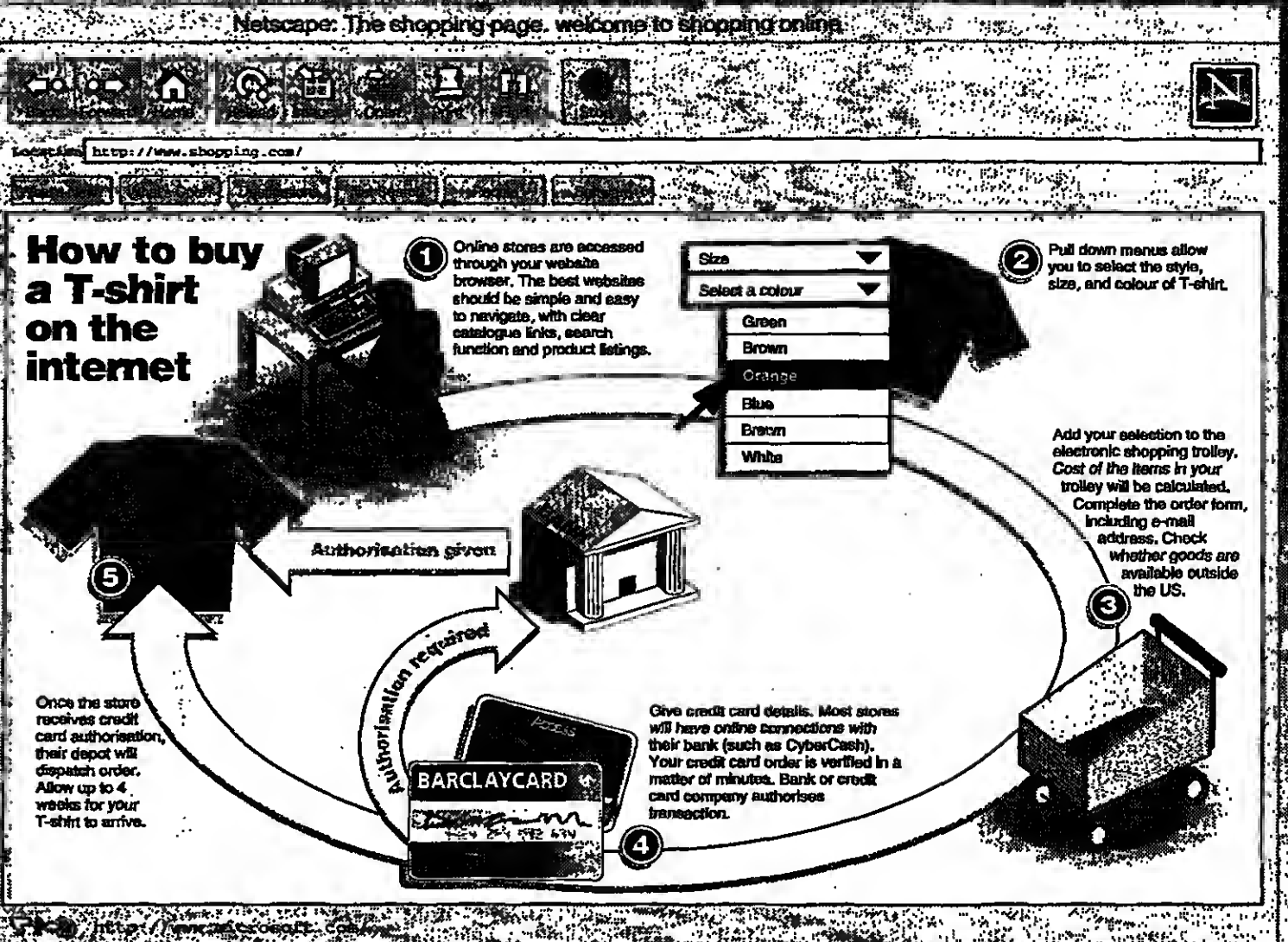
Worldwide use



Online shopping

Forecast revenues from online shopping in the US, \$ billion

Category	1998	2000
Computer products	1,228	2,105
Entertainment	733	1,250
Gifts and flowers	388	658
Other	221	329



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# Finance Guardian

## ICL's Microsoft deal opens gates to open government

Jack Schofield  
Computer Editor

ICL, Britain's largest computer company, yesterday signed a deal with Microsoft claiming it would create 1,000 new jobs and help usher in the era of more open and efficient government promised by Labour at the last election.

The company said the deal would help the Government and local authorities speed up the deployment of information terminals, such as kiosks in public libraries, and could also help consumers get information using home PCs or television sets.

The three-year deal will create about 1,000 jobs in Europe, and bring ICL an estimated \$500 million in new business.

ICL — originally formed by Harold Wilson's Labour administration in the 1960s, although it is now 90 per cent owned by Fujitsu of Japan —

remains a leading supplier of government computer systems, making it particularly attractive to Microsoft, which has diligently built links with Tony Blair's administration.

To support its backing for the American company's software technologies, ICL will train 4,000 people as "Microsoft certified engineers". About 3,000 will be current ICL employees. About half the new jobs will be in the UK, while others will be in "solution centres". ICL plans to open in Stockholm, Sweden, and Katowice, Poland.

But the deal will also increase the penetration of Microsoft's software in UK government and in other areas where ICL has a significant market share, such as education and the retail sector.

The agreement represents a change of strategy for ICL, which previously championed the Unix operating system and other government-approved "open systems" as

part of a movement to promote greater compatibility between computers.

Keith Todd, ICL's chief executive, said: "Our future application development will be on Microsoft's Windows NT. We will support our existing customers, but applications will not be available on Unix going forward."

Microsoft's executive vice-president, Steve Ballmer, insisted that the deal did not put constraints on ICL, pointing out that "there is no exclusivity in the contract" to restrict what ICL supplies. Mr Todd said it was a response to customer demand and would lead to lower prices.

Microsoft has made similar pacts with US computer companies, such as Digital Equipment Corporation and Hewlett-Packard, which have the large staffs needed to install and support corporate computer systems. However, ICL is the first big European-based company to follow suit.

Essentially, ICL's strategy for improving government computing involves taking data from the isolated "information silos" held by different departments and using Microsoft software to distribute it to kiosks and personal computers running Web browsers.

### Fruit machines enter Internet age

THE humble fruit machine is to be upgraded to cater for the needs of cyberspace fans. Kunkle, the leisure operator, yesterday announced a joint venture with Sega to bring the amusement into the Internet age, writes Pauline Springett.

Instead of offering one fixed game to the punter, the new look machines will include a number of different amusements. The player will select which one he or she wishes to play from a computer-style menu displayed on screen.

"They will be multiple-game machines", Russell Smith, Kunkle's chief executive, said. "They will also be easier to update — we will be able to introduce new twists."

The first new-style machines will go on trial in six months. Mr Russell said that although the initial games would be developed with Sega he was also in preliminary talks with the other computer game developers.

Kunkle unveiled an 11.5 per cent rise in its pre-tax profits for the half year to the end of March, at £4.8 million.

Mr Smith said the firm's performance had been improved by the successful start of a computer system which allows the company to monitor its fruit machines centrally for faults.

### Notebook

## Yen in the line of American fire



Edited by  
Alex Brummer

JAPAN has more to fear than the damp ranks of ex-servicemen turning their backs on Emperor Akihito. The United States has become so anxious about the slippage of the world's largest economy from recession to depression that it is taking aggressive, unilateral action.

The United States treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, made it clear in an interview in the journal US News & World Report that he is determined to support a further devaluation of the yen, hoping it will stimulate the economy.

Mr Rubin went so far as to suggest that the dollar might buy 140 to 150 yen, a new post-war record. This is a break with recent Group of Seven sessions, when the US appeared to join those advocating some restoration of the yen's dismal value.

The only apparently positive development is that, five years on, the Japanese Ministry of Finance is willing to confront the problems of the banking system with the insistence that \$78.1 billion (\$48.2 billion) of bad loans are written off.

This banking clean-up means removing a hidden subsidy in Japanese bank accounts to large sectors of the economy. It also means that the industrial sector, as seen at Nissan, has to reconstruct itself to become viable.

In maintaining global growth momentum, Mr Rubin's instincts are right — put as much pressure as possible on Tokyo and its inflexible political system.

But he must also realise that, over the medium term, the strong dollar policy risks even larger trade imbalances and protectionism — problems which could disturb a peaceful transition to Al Gore in the year 2000.

### Euro punt

SPECULATION that Holland's ABN Amro was on the verge of a big bid has been around for so long that there is a sense of relief it has finally made a move.

But the choice of Generale Bank caught the market on the hop. The Belgian bank has already received an offer from insurer Fortis, which can claim to speak for 35 per cent of Generale shares.

ABN's willingness to risk a bidding war against that kind of obstacle shows just how concerned it is to build up what it calls a "second home market" in Europe.

But then Generale is close to being the only game in Europe for a bank like ABN, which is a single-currency true believer.

The bank's scope for consolidation in its domestic market is nil and opportunities in other areas are limited. It has already been rebuffed in its efforts to acquire CIC in France. It might be able to pick up a mid-sized German bank, but that would hardly fit the bill.

Hence Generale — with which ABN has held talks about co-operation in the past. ABN and Generale together would constitute the third-largest banking operation in Europe.

At \$7.6 billion, it is probably the biggest single punt on the success of the single currency so far.

### Water alert

THE travails of Thames Water in Jakarta have again demonstrated how difficult it is proving for the British water utilities to follow the French model and bring their knowledge and skills to bear overseas.

The objective of the UK companies is to provide a stream of unregulated earnings which will begin to chip in beyond the year 2000, when profits and dividends become harder to earn in Britain.

This strategy — which has seen \$20 million of business-development expenditure flow overseas each year — may be hard to sell to shareholders after the United Utilities experience in Bangkok, and Thames's in Jakarta.

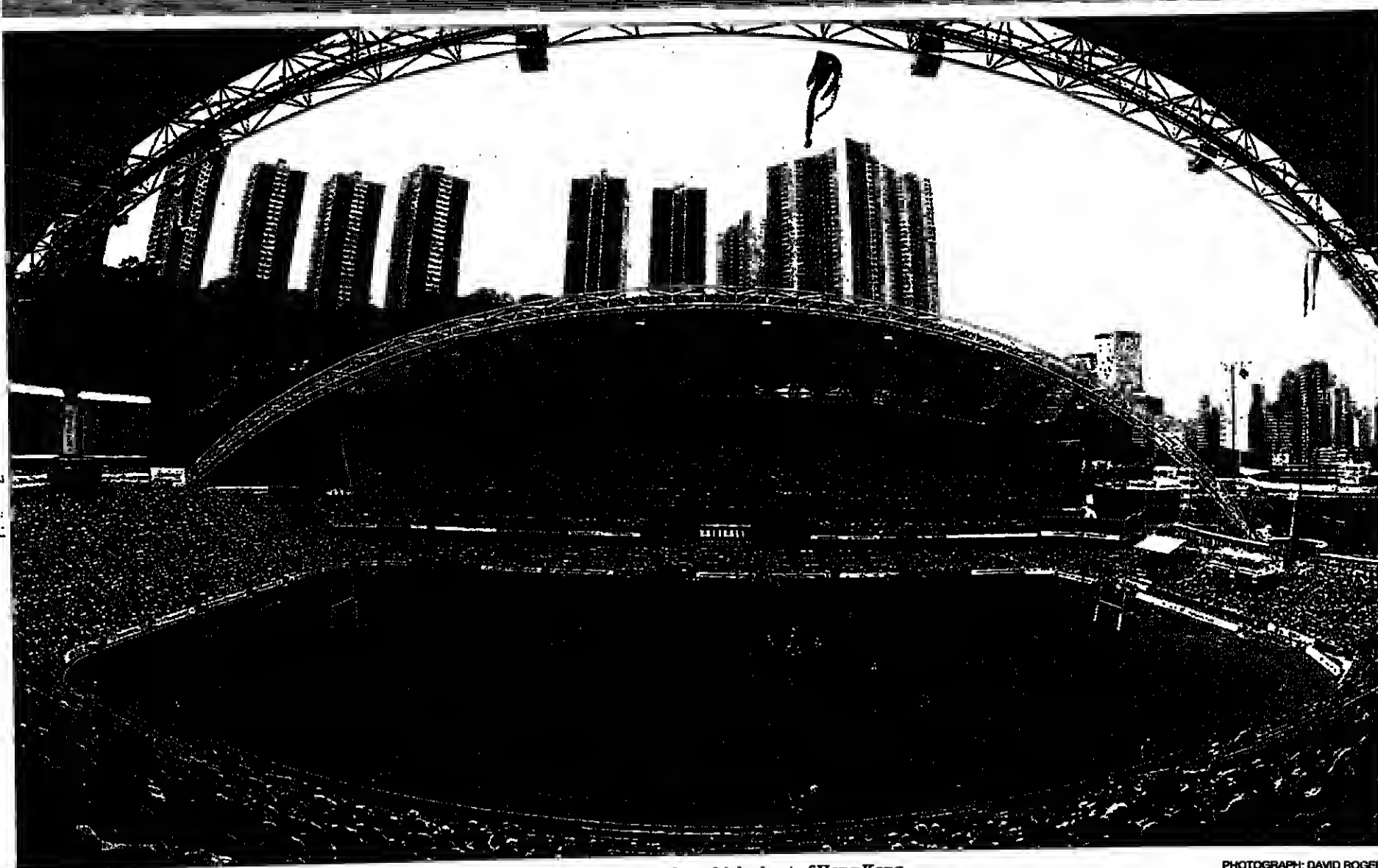
If that were not bad enough, the stock market is getting wily about domestic prospects. This year's results, kicking off with Anglia today, will be healthy enough, with better dividends elsewhere on the equity market.

But it must be warning on the water companies that the days of big profits, bumper dividends and hiding behind the pretence of a huge investment programme are over.

The next water review by Ofwat will be fierce. It will almost certainly be seen as an opportunity to rebalance in favour of the consumer, who has suffered in favour of privatisation.

Ofwat will be determined to ratchet down prices and give something back to the consumer, in much the same way as the electricity and gas utilities, through price competition.

The water companies will also have to satisfy the Government's environmental agenda. Until now, the focus has been on delivering clean water; but that is now shifting towards dealing with sewerage and waste water, in which the UK has an appalling record. The days of sugar-coated returns for the water sector are over, and after Jakarta, international activity does not seem such an attractive escape.



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ROGERS

Final whistle... The communists don't like the state of the pitch, so Wembley plc has been kicked out of Hong Kong

## Wembley calls foul over Hong Kong's red card

The 'world's leading manager of leisure venues' is not taking being kicked off the island lying down. David Gow reports

WEMBLEY plc yesterday began legal action against Hong Kong's new communist authorities after being kicked out of running the island's prestigious stadium.

After a series of local attacks on the poor state of the pitch for such events as the Hong Kong rugby sevens, the island's urban council said it was lodging High Court claims against Wembley for "serious and/or persistent" breaches of its obligations to manage the stadium.

But the company — in the throes of selling its famous London venue for the FA Cup Final and England in-

ternationals to a consortium planning a \$320 million new stadium — said its Hong Kong subsidiary had met all its contractual obligations and provided a record surplus of HK\$18 million (£1.4 million).

It said: "The recent appointment of Gar Chiang as general manager, together with other initiatives at the stadium, indicated our strong desire to work closely with the council to continue to provide the people of Hong Kong with the finest stadium and the finest programme of events in the region."

"Wembley is therefore extremely disappointed

and indeed highly concerned that the council has broken a legally binding contract."

"We are therefore taking legal action to challenge this unwarranted and unnecessary move."

Wembley, which styles itself the world's leading manager of leisure venues, made operating profits last year of \$28.7 million after veering close to receivership in 1995.

It said its 10-year Hong Kong contract — begun in March 1994 — was legally watertight.

Officials said: "It came as a complete surprise that we were being fired as our

local colleagues have been having ongoing discussions for some months but, as far as we are concerned, that was simply building a position of trust and co-operation with the new system."

The Hong Kong stadium, in a residential part of the densely-populated island, has also provoked local complaints about noise levels at concerts, with some events banned.

Wembley said the council's action had unjustly thrown local employees out of work, but the council — which has agreed to return the stadium at a cost of HK\$1.7 million — said it would keep many on.

## Dutch spring surprise £7.5bn bank bid

Mark Miller  
Deputy Financial Editor

HOLLAND'S ABN Amro brought a surprise twist to the trend of consolidation within the European banking industry with a \$7.5 billion bid for Belgium's Generale Bank. If successful, the deal will create the third-largest bank in Europe.

The initiative brought the prospect of a bidding war for control of the Belgian group, which has already been on

the receiving end of a merger offer from the insurance group Fortis.

The ABN offer, which wrong-footed analysts and investors, came as shareholders in Bavaria's Vereinsbank gave their blessing to Germany's so-called "elephant wedding" — the merger with Hypo bank which will create the country's number two bank. Two of Switzerland's big three banks, UBS and SBC are also in the process of merging.

ABN Amro, which has been tipped recently as a possible

bidding for a number of banks, said it had made a bid for Generale so it can build up a "second home market" in Europe.

It could face a tough battle, however. Its bid is worth about 15 per cent more than the offer from Fortis but its rival already has irrevocable agreements to buy 35 per cent of Generale from three key shareholders.

"We think we have an interesting offer, not just in the short term but in the long term as well for Generale's shareholders, customers and employees," said a Fortis spokesman yesterday.

Generale directors were considering their response last night.

In recent months ABN, which has operations in the US, Latin America and Asia, has made little secret of its

### Top 10 banking deals

Target	Bidder	Deal value, £ bn
Chubb (US)	Travelers Group (US)	49.7
NationsBank Corporation (US)	BankAmerica Corporation (US)	35.96
First Chicago Bank Corporation (US)	Bank One Corporation (US)	17.5
Schweizerischer Bankverein (Swiss)	Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft (Swiss)	14.5
Tokai-Mitsubishi Bank (Japan)	Mitsubishi Bank (Japan)	12.7
Comptoir d'Escompte (US)	First Union Corporation (US)	11.7
Barnett Banks Inc (US)	NationsBank Corporation (US)	9.5
Toronto-Dominion Bank (Canada)	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Canada)	8.9
Generale Bank (Belg)	ABN AMRO (Holland)	7.5
First Interstate Bancorp (US)	Wells Fargo & Company (US)	7.4

ambition to build up its European operations in advance of the launch of the single currency. In particular it has looked at France, Germany and Belgium — although it lost out in the auction to buy CIC in France. Generale would provide access to the Belgian market as well as giving footholds in France and Italy.

Outlining the strategic vision behind the bid, ABN chairman Jan Kalf compared the move with the merger of the ABN and Amro banks.

"We must look further ahead than tomorrow. Globally, increasingly large combinations are being formed, including in the financial sector. ABN Amro also arose in the early 1990s from a merger which created developments at that time. We consider the time ripe for a similar step."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.54	Germany 2.80	Malaysia 6.22	Singapore 2.50
Austria 18.88	Greece 481.07	Malta 0.5151	South Africa 3.14
Belgium 57.70	Hong Kong 12.28	Netherlands 3.1337	Spain 236.31
Canada 0.30	India 56.57	New Zealand 2.97	Sweden 12.30
Cyprus 0.82	Ireland 1.1121	Norway 11.83	Switzerland 2.30
Denmark 10.72	Israel 6.93	Portugal 265.67	Turkey 337.850
Finland 6.58	Italy 2.780	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5500
France 9.38			

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سكوت الامل



Racing

# Courteous switched to Epsom

Chris Hawtins

PRINCE Fahd Salman has done an about turn regarding running plans for his colt Courteous and decided to send him to Epsom rather than the Prix du Jockey Club, the French equivalent, at Chantilly this Sunday.

Paul Cole, trainer of Courteous who is by his 1991 Derby winner Generous, is delighted by the owner's decision and commented: "This is definitely a proper horse with a serious chance. He worked very well on Saturday with Posidonas, who finished sixth in the Arc last season and beat Swain at Newbury."

"Courteous was the Sandown Trial in April in heavy going but he's a very sound horse who shouldn't be bothered by firmer ground. The time of his Sandown race was nearly two seconds faster than the five-year-old German who won the Gordon Richards Stakes half an hour later.

"He's done well since that Sandown run and I think that race is the best of the Derby trials because it gives a horse so much time to recover and build himself up."

Courteous won by six lengths at Sandown and was staying on strongly at the end of that mile and a quarter. There should be no doubt about him getting a mile and a half as he has stamina on

both sides of his pedigree — his maternal dam Deyanira is by the 1978 Derby winner Shirley Heights.

Not from one of the fashionable yards but nevertheless trained by a thorough professional, he looks excellent each-way value at 25-1. Richard Quinn takes the ride. Geoff Wages says he will make an announcement this morning about whether his Chester Vase winner Gulland goes to Epsom or to Chantilly.

Wages, who walked the course at Epsom yesterday afternoon, is worried about fast ground for his colt who is more likely to get the give he wants in France where the going at Chantilly is currently good to soft.

Aidan O'Brien has confirmed that Saratoga Springs goes for the French Derby. He will be ridden by Michael Kinane who rides the stable's horses outside Ireland.

Many punters carried away by the Ballydoyle hype will be regretting he was not a Second Empire in Saturday's Irish Guineas. It remains a mystery why this easy option was not taken as this colt is by no means certain to stay the Derby trip.

Saratoga Springs could apparently turn up again at Epsom if he does not have too hard a race at Chantilly. We all know he is a tough colt but this would seem to be asking a very big question of him. Incidentally O'Brien has four still entered for the



One up... Walter Swinburn rides the first leg of a double at Leicester on Court Shareef (right)

French Derby (Chateau Rouge, Desert Fox and King Of Kings make up the team) and nine for the Irish Derby on June 20.

Godolphin, the other all-powerful force, will be represented at Chantilly by Muev who did his final piece of work yesterday morning in company with the Epsom-bound City Honours. Muev went the better but City Honours, runner-up in the Dante, is well known for being a sluggard on the gallops.

Cape Verdi and Babr worked separately over a mile. Both are in the Vodafone Oaks while the Godolphin team have until Saturday to decide whether to fork out £75,000 and supplement Cape Verdi for the Derby.

Proff, trained by Barry Hills, and John Dunlop's recent Goodwood winner Rahab are other possible English runners in the French Derby although Rahab relishes the firm and is unlikely to get his ground.

At Newbury this evening there is a good word for the Ian Balding newcomer Bred Winner (6.00) in the Boxford Maiden Stakes while later in the evening Apprehension (7.25) is taken to put a poor run on heavy ground last time behind him in the Tarmac Conditions Stakes.

## Ripon tonight

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
6.40	Courtesy Lodge
7.10	Shaykh
7.40	Shaykh
8.10	Shaykh
8.40	Shaykh
9.10	Shaykh

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
6.40	Courtesy Lodge
7.10	Shaykh
7.40	Shaykh
8.10	Shaykh
8.40	Shaykh
9.10	Shaykh

## Cartmel (N.H.) card

TURF PALEY	TOP FORM
2.00	Franky
2.30	Franky
2.40	Franky
2.50	Franky
3.00	Franky
3.10	Franky

## Results

RED CAR	RESULTS
5.00 (10)	5.00 (10)
5.10 (10)	5.10 (10)
5.20 (10)	5.20 (10)
5.30 (10)	5.30 (10)
5.40 (10)	5.40 (10)
5.50 (10)	5.50 (10)

## Newbury tonight

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
6.00	Shaykh
6.30	Shaykh
6.40	Shaykh
6.50	Shaykh
7.00	Shaykh
7.10	Shaykh

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
6.00	Shaykh
6.30	Shaykh
6.40	Shaykh
6.50	Shaykh
7.00	Shaykh
7.10	Shaykh

## Yarmouth runners and riders

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.20	Franky
2.30	Franky
2.40	Franky
2.50	Franky
3.00	Franky
3.10	Franky

## Results

RED CAR	RESULTS
5.00 (10)	5.00 (10)
5.10 (10)	5.10 (10)
5.20 (10)	5.20 (10)
5.30 (10)	5.30 (10)
5.40 (10)	5.40 (10)
5.50 (10)	5.50 (10)

## SPORTS NEWS 13

### Folkestone Jackpot card

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
1.40	Gully Hill
2.10	Deep Space
2.40	Turtle Valley
3.10	Balloo Athol
3.40	Hallamoor
4.10	Omnia To The Best
4.40	Glen Parker
5.10	My Lamented Friend

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
1.40	Gully Hill
2.10	Deep Space
2.40	Turtle Valley
3.10	Balloo Athol
3.40	Hallamoor
4.10	Omnia To The Best
4.40	Glen Parker
5.10	My Lamented Friend

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## World Cup countdown

## Durie's despair turns to delight

Patrick Glenn in New Jersey

GORDON DURIE, the Scotland striker who endured a barren season at Ibrox, walked with a noticeably jauntier gait yesterday from the breakfast room at Scotland's hotel here.

His prospects of playing in the World Cup finals, which he had feared were dashed and buried, had been resurrected. Durie sustained a hamstring injury against Colombia last Saturday night which convinced him that this warm-up tour was about to become a nightmare. "I really thought the dream was over," he said.

"I felt a little twinge in the muscle five minutes before the incident that caused me to go off. But when Jackie McNamara crossed the ball, I instinctively stretched to reach it and I thought I was gone."

"I lay on the ground believing it was over for me. I thought I had pulled or torn the hamstring, that would have been at least a four-week recovery period."

Durie's despair was dispelled yesterday when Scotland's chief medical officer Professor Stuart Hillis assured him that the muscle was neither pulled nor torn and that he might even be ready to play against the United States at RFK Stadium in Washington on Saturday.

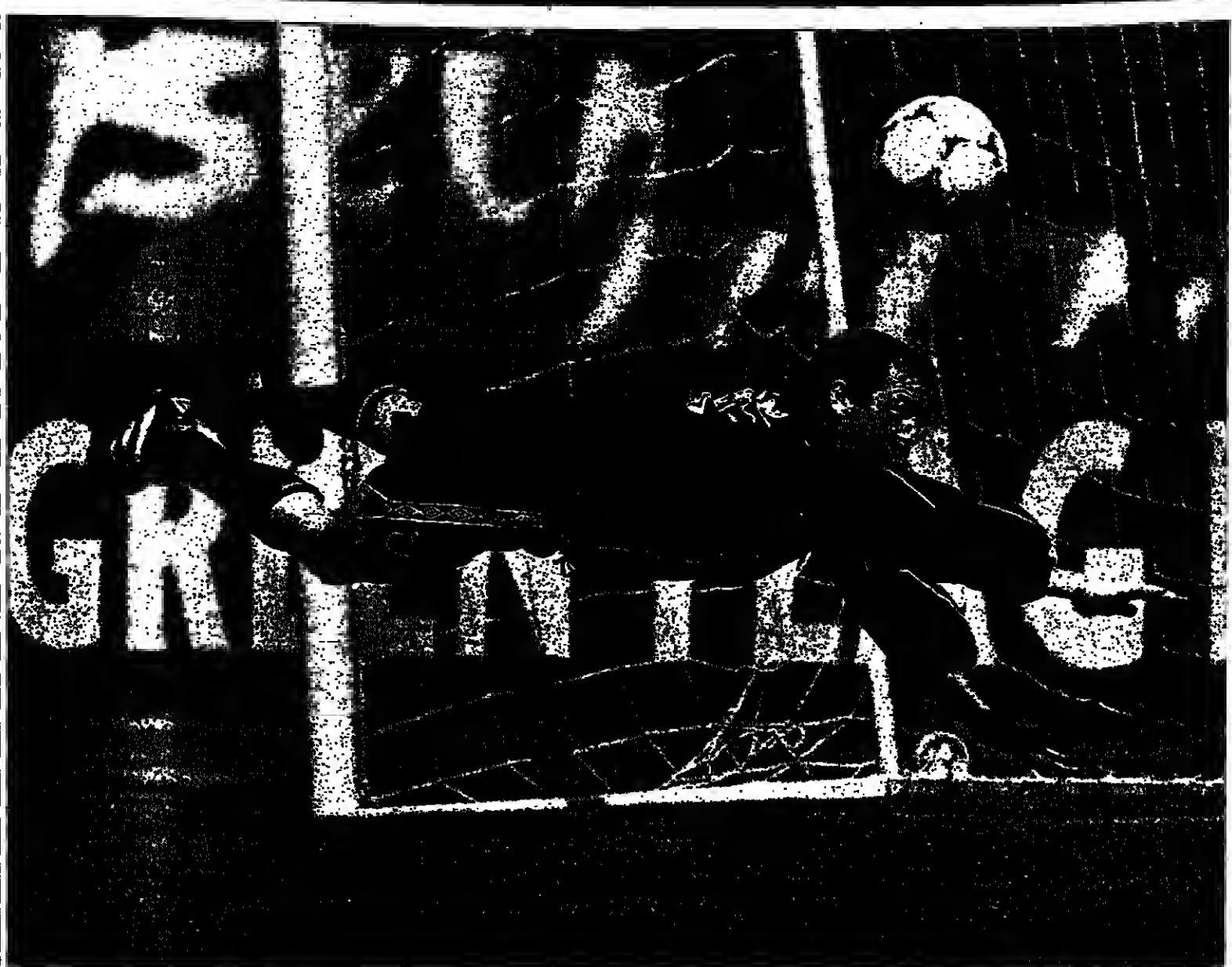
"Stuart said that the muscle had gone into spasm," said Durie. "That's what caused the worry, but he said that it had released itself and it would be all right within a few days."

Durie's good omen was matched by that of Kevin Gallacher, Scotland's principal striker, who has been weakened by the effects of a stomach virus and had shed 15lb at the weekend.

The Scotland manager Craig Brown revealed that the Blackburn forward had trained hard and "very impressively".

"Considering the condition he had been in, his practice session was terrific," said Brown. "He ate yesterday and managed to keep the food down, but we will have to wait and see how he was during the night. That's when he has been most severely affected since he caught this bug."

"But the signs are very positive and we are much more hopeful that he will be able to play at least some part of the match against the States. It's important for him to have time in a competitive environment before the World Cup."



Potential saviour... Paul Gascoigne, who will win his 56th England cap today, tries his hand in goal after yesterday's training session. ROSS KINNAIRD

## Birthday fitness test for Gazza

David Lacey in La Manga on England's outlook for today's friendly with Morocco

PAUL GASCOIGNE'S 31st birthday today will find England engaged in more sober pursuits than was the case on his 29th, when pictures of players pouring cocktails down their throats in a Hong Kong nightclub while reclining in a dentist's chair rather dampened the nation's view of its heroes shortly before Euro 96.

This time Gascoigne will not even be able to celebrate the occasion with a night in Casablanca, thus denying Gazza-watchers an opportunity to compare his performance with that of Harpo Marx in the film of the same name.

After this afternoon's friendly with Morocco, the squad will return to their headquarters here in Spain before flying back to Casablanca on Friday for the game with Belgium which completes the warm-up programme. The players will then be kept on tenter-

hooks for 48 hours or so before Glenn Hoddle announces his squad of 22.

"There are still a couple of spots to be settled," the England coach said yesterday, "but for the moment no one knows they're in and no one knows they're out."

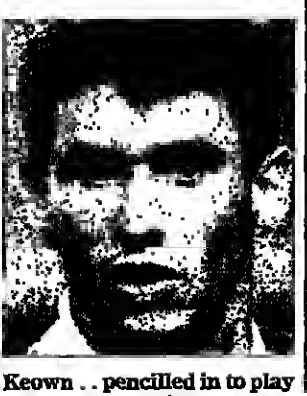
Most of the players, however, can make reasonably intelligent guesses and Gascoigne knows that, barring a serious injury, his name will be among those included when the coach reveals all on Monday. Hoddle just needs to see evidence that the player is sufficiently match-fit to last a game or the best part of one.

Today, therefore, Gascoigne is set to start his Australian Premiership last, the friendly against Cameroon six months ago, Hoddle having brought him on for the last half-hour of Saturday's disappointing 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia. The coach has clearly convinced himself that Eng-

land's only link with the 1990 World Cup remains the key to success in France, and Gascoigne would need to have an utter disaster against Morocco to force a change of heart.

"Paul will start," the England coach confirmed. "The last thing I've wanted to do is put him in too early, but pressure on him and risk the boy getting on his feet. But I'm confident in saying that after today he'll be ready for 90 minutes."

"Nevertheless we will only find out after 75 or 80



Keown... pencilled in to play

minutes. That's the time when we will have to decide whether or not we take him off. He'll be going into a zone where he could pull a muscle or something."

Hoddle is still hoping that Paul Ince, Gascoigne's partner in England's better performances, will be able to play after missing the Saudi game with an ankle injury. However, the signs are not good as Ince was forced to pull out of training yesterday, when the trouble flared up once more.

The situation is not sufficiently critical to put his World Cup place in jeopardy but if the Liverpool player has to miss both matches the chances of Nicky Butt scraping into the squad as a midfield cover would improve.

Ince, of course, is part of the spine of the side around which Hoddle would mould his team. Steve McManaman, on the other hand, may represent the grumbling appendix about to be removed.

McManaman has appeared in two internationals but of seven since arriving Hoddle by withdrawing

from last summer's England programme. When the Liverpool winger was recalled for the 1-1 draw in Switzerland, the coach had him playing so deep he practically became a right-back.

If McManaman is not given a reasonable amount of playing time during the two matches, then he can look forward to watching the World Cup on television. Less may be seen of Michael Owen but then he is Hoddle's Excelsior, a missile ready to burst on opponents from below the horizon.

Martin Keown, Ian Wright, Graeme Le Saux and Sol Campbell may all be in today, and Hoddle will want to run another check on Darren Anderton in one of the two matches.

Whoever plays may find Morocco, coached by the Frenchman Henri Michel, as big a handful as the Saudis. They too, have skilled players — such as Salaheddine Bassir — capable of posing awkward questions of the defence.

McManaman has appeared in two internationals but of seven since arriving Hoddle by withdrawing

## Motor Racing

## Rivals keep Ferrari rich

Alan Henry

FERRARI will receive an annual \$5 million (£3 million), half of it from their competitors, because they are the biggest box-office draw in Formula One.

As part of the Concorde agreement, which will govern the next decade the multi-billion-dollar income from television coverage of the world championship, each of the other teams will put \$250,000 annually into the Ferrari fund. This will then be matched by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Administration organisation.

These payments will supplement Ferrari's television income of \$20 million as last season's runners-up, on a scale which ranges from \$23 million annually for the world champion constructor, currently Williams, down to \$9.3 million for the smallest teams, Minardi and Tyrrell.

The Concorde agreement was finally signed at the weekend's Monaco Grand Prix after two years of debate and threats of legal action.

For Ecclestone, whose television operating arm owns the coverage rights for the championship, it clears one hurdle separating him from a \$1.5 billion Stock Exchange flotation of his business empire. However, he has still to convince the EU's competition commissioner Karel van Miert that his television interests do not amount to an unacceptable monopoly position under EU law.

There is another fly in the commercial ointment: the Swiss-based Sauber team have declined to sign the agreement. Peter Sauber's ambitious business partner Fritz Kasper, who sees himself as a potential challenger to Ecclestone as F1 supremo, has argued that the Swiss team are based outside the EU he has the right to race in F1 independent of the agreement.

Meanwhile, for the stumbling Jordan-Honda team, signing the agreement at least guarantees financial security as they struggle to regroup after a disastrous Monaco GP which saw Damon Hill locked in a furious row with the team owner Eddie Jordan over the uncompetitiveness of his car.

Jordan later responded with a robust statement absolving Hill and Ralf Schumacher, effectively putting the blame on his own design department under its technical director Gary Anderson.

Hill finished two laps behind Mika Hakkinen's victorious McLaren and has said that the team have no chance of winning races this year with the current car. The problems will be addressed at a crisis meeting of the team management this week.

"It was a pretty sorry and to a very, very difficult weekend," said Jordan. "The circuit here is unique but there are really no excuses for our performance. I think we will have to go through some pain before things get any better. I cannot fault the drivers, I have no question mark over them."

## Cycling

## O'Grady lost but still gains

William Fotheringham

STUART O'GRADY may have got lost with 90 of his fellow riders on the Prud'homme but the Australian retained his overall lead when the race reached Blackpool, and increased his advantage over his team-mate Chris Boardman to 17 seconds.

The 115-mile stage over the Pennines and the Trough of Bowland saw fast, furious racing for the third day running. It was dominated by a five-man break which included the King of the Mountains leader Jonathan Vaughters and Britain's Mark Walsby. They made their escape shortly after the start at the national cycling centre in Manchester.

But for the first time in any race in Britain the leg was interrupted by a 35-minute enforced rest when the quintet were stopped at the foot of the Trough after the break, including O'Grady and Boardman, had gone off course and been permitted to catch up.

When the race resumed, the gap between breakaways and hunch was set at the same

value as when the pursuers had taken a wrong turn and reached a dead end. However, after half an hour attempting to keep their stiffened limbs warm, the leaders had the chase in the hunch, led initially by Boardman and O'Grady's team and subsequently by the Britons of Britive, was ferocious, rarely dropping below 35mph on the wind-assisted run off the hills.

The sprint between the 38-year-old group along the Promenade was equally furious and saw the young Australian Jay Sweet triumph ahead of Gan's beach-bound Swede Magnus Backstedt, with O'Grady in third and Alarming more time-bonus seconds.

Today, Chester to Nottingham, 55 miles. Mario Cipollini demonstrated why he is called the "King of Sprints" when he won his fourth stage in six days in the Giro d'Italia. The 31-year-old Tuscan pipped his compatriot Silvio Martinello and Endrio Leoni on the line to take the 131.4-mile 10th leg from Vasto to Macerata in 5hr 10min 43sec.

## Sport in brief

## Basketball

The Manchester Giants have appointed the American Nick Nurse as coach in place of Jim Brandon, who resigned this month. **Wrestling** Rob Dugdale, 30, coached Britain from 1990-91, Birmingham from 1992-97 and Oxford last season.

The Indiana Pacers beat the reigning champions Chicago Bulls 96-94 to level their best-of-seven Eastern Conference championship series at 2-2. Reggie Miller buried a three-point shot with less than a second left on the clock to secure the victory after the Bulls' guard Scottie Pippen had missed two free throws with 2.9 seconds remaining and Chicago leading 94-93. Michael Jordan, who scored 28 points, missed a shot on the buzzer for the Bulls.

## Rugby League

The Salford stand-off Steve Blakeley will miss the next two matches after being concussed in Sunday's defeat at London Broncos. **Athletics** Denise Lewis, the world silver medalist, has withdrawn from a heptathlon in Goteborg, Austria, at the weekend, because of injury. **Wrestling** Dan Mackay, "I have a minor ankle sprain and didn't want to pull out after two events," she said.

## Team talk

The independent news and reports service

0930 16 86 +

## Fixtures

**Football** KOO HANSON II INTERNATIONAL CUP, Balfour v France (7.30); England v Morocco (5.30). **Rugby League** CELESTINE HALLS v St Helens (7.30); 54 Huddersfield v Salford (7.30). **Cricket** SEASIDE AND HEDDERGUP (11.0), one day; Gloucestershire v Leicestershire (11.0), one day; Lancashire v Yorkshire (11.0), one day; Somerset v Gloucestershire (11.0), one day; Warwickshire v Durham (11.0), one day; Northants v Leicestershire (11.0), one day; Middlesex v Essex (11.0), one day; Kent v Surrey (11.0), one day; Hampshire v Devon (11.0), one day; Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire (11.0), one day; Wiltshire v Somerset (11.0), one day; Dorset v Devon (11.0), one day; Somerset v Gloucestershire (11.0), one day; Warwickshire v Durham (11.0), one day; Northants v Leicestershire (11.0), one day; Middlesex v Essex (11.0), one day; Kent v Surrey (11.0), one day; Hampshire v Devon (11.0), one day; Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire (11.0), one day; Wiltshire v Somerset (11.0), one day; Dorset v Devon (11.0), one day; 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Ageing Agassi bites the dust, page 15  
Woodward fires young guns, page 15

Epsom invites Courteous, page 13  
Ferrari rake in millions, page 14

# SportsGuardian

## Taffarel aims for West Ham

Paddy Agnew in Rome and Russell Thomas report

**T**HE Brazil goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel may move to West Ham on a two-year contract.

Taffarel, who is in France with the Brazil squad preparing for his third successive World Cup, reportedly said one of his agents is negotiating with West Ham, but the deal has not been confirmed.



Taffarel... Brazil's best

West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp has been keen to keep the French international goalkeeper Bernard Lama, who came on loan from Paris St-Germain last season, but it is almost certain Lama will be a PSG player again next campaign.

Taffarel, who plays in Brazil for Atletico Mineiro, said he looked forward to a new challenge abroad after a disappointing four-year spell with Parma and Reggiana in Italy from 1990.

The 32-year-old has fallen out with the Atletico Mineiro chairman, who told Taffarel he earns too much. The goalkeeper says he is paid £300,000 a year.

Winning the 1994 World Cup was the prelude to some hard times for Taffarel. Released by Reggiana, he spent six months unemployed and was reduced to turning out at centre-forward for an Italian church team.

Sources close to Arsenal last night insisted the Double winners are not in the market for Roberto Baggio, despite a claim by Bologna's president that the English champions are willing to pay the Italian £5 million in wages to lure him to Highbury on a three-year contract.

Arsene Wenger wants three new players and has hinted that he will buy abroad for the quality he is seeking. But Baggio, despite his resurgent season and call-up to Italy's World Cup squad, is considered, at 31, the wrong age and, in any case, too expensive.

Arsenal's manager is building for the future and at a cost that will not precipitate player unrest over wages.

Bologna are "99.9 per cent" resigned to losing Baggio and it appears their president Toassio Giuseppe Frascara is attempting to maximise the player's value by claiming Arsenal are competing with Internazionale for the forward.

Gazzoni said yesterday: "Arsenal and Inter are offering him something that we can't, the Champions League. But we haven't given up yet. I've given our latest offer — a 35 per cent pay rise and the Baggio School project for when he's stopped playing."

But Arsenal are offering him 18 billion lire (£6 million).

### Gazza plans up in smoke

**T**HERE was bad news for Paul Gascoigne yesterday when Middlesbrough banned smoking at the Riverside stadium next season.

The Boro midfielder, who admits to enjoying more than just an occasional cigarette, will be relieved to learn that the club have no plans to dispense with their fast-food outlets.

It remains to be seen whether he will draw on one of the tricks he picked up during his spell in Italy with Lazio. "They nip into the toilet at half-time for one," he has said.

over three years and we can't afford that sort of money."

Baggio revealed last month that the idea of playing abroad appealed. But he is far more likely to stay in Italy and join Inter, where he would join Ronaldo.

Before Derby County's pursuit of the Italian last summer, Baggio had never expressed any desire to leave Serie A. Any return to the San Siro, where he previously played for Milan, would be eased by the possible departure of the Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff, a target for Atletico Madrid, or an exchange deal taking the Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu to Bologna.

Baggio joined Bologna last summer on a two-year contract with an option to be extended either side after 12 months. The player has until July 15 to exercise that option but Gazzoni is pressing for a decision before Baggio leaves on June 5 for the World Cup finals.

A much more likely target for Wenger is Norway's sought-after young midfielder Bjarte Aarsheim, who has been recommended by Arsenal's chief scout Steve Rowley after watching him impress in a B international against Scotland recently.

The 21-year-old Viking Stanger player, a member of Norway's World Cup squad, has been seeking a move into English football for two years.

Rowley said: "He is a very capable player who would interest us if a sensible price can be found." Stanger would want at least £3 million.

Brian Laudrup says he will leave Rangers for Chelsea, with or without the blessing of the Glasgow club's chairman David Murray.

Murray insists that Rangers will push for compensation but the Denmark forward, whose contract at Ibrox expires at midnight Saturday, reportedly said Rangers had no rights or claims on him, and the planned move would go ahead without a fee under the Bosman ruling.



Foot up... Paul Ince wears a worried look as he nurses his injured ankle during training yesterday

ROSS KINNARD

## Ince in England injury scare

**E**NGLAND suffered a World Cup scare yesterday when Paul Ince pulled out of training in Spain with an ankle injury.

Ince is likely to miss this afternoon's warm-up against Morocco in Casablanca, but England's coach Glenn Hoddle insisted the Liverpool midfielder would be fit for the finals.

"There is no problem in terms of him not recovering for the first game in France," Hoddle said. "There is nothing major, it was a precautionary thing. He was going to play in Morocco but we will now decide on that when things have settled down."

Ince was unable even to take part in the warm-up for what would have been his second full training session since he injured his left ankle in a tackle on Arsenal's Ian Wright three weeks ago.

He sat disconsolately in the dug-out after receiving treatment and, although he later managed a gentle jog with Hoddle, he was ordered by the medical staff to rest for the day.

Definitely one of the final is the Croatia striker Alen Boksic, who faces surgery on his right knee. Croatia's coach Miroslav Blazevic blamed the injury on Boksic's Italian club Lazio, whom he accused of misleading the player over the seriousness of the problem.

"Lazio are paying him, they wanted to sell him to Milan for £6 million and they were intentionally playing down the seriousness of the injury," he said. "Croatia is losing one of its main trump cards for the World Cup. I've been building my strategy on him."

Norway have said their Liverpool midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen will recover from a thigh injury in time for the World Cup.

David Lacey, page 14



Paul Weaver

### Adam is not to blame for the original cricket sin

**A**DAM HOLLOAKE appears to have lost his appeal marginally more quickly than the Viagra pill. Having lost his Test place, and with his candidature for the five-day captaincy, he is now, it seems, entirely to blame for England's miserable showing in the Texaco Trophy series.

Indeed, the selectors may now take the one-day post away from him and add it to Alec Stewart's already cluttered job description. If I were Holloake, who has a strong interest in politics, I would consider giving my bosses a bloody nose.

Defeat, it seems, had nothing to do with David Lloyd, the coach, whose poor record goes back over years, not weeks as is the case with Holloake. Why are fingers not being pointed at him? Bob Woolmer's South Africa were better prepared for the one-day series than Lloyd's England.

Then there was the crassness of the selectors, whose honesty is now well and truly over. Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting have between them played for their country 414 times, in 197 Tests and 217 one-day internationals. It is difficult to speak too highly of them for their deeds and dedication.

Yet in the recent one-day series they have gone out of their way to convey the unambiguous impression that what they really understand about cricket could be written on the back of a torn stamp with a felt-tip marker.

They selected two men who had never played for England to bat in the first five, Chris Adams and Darren Maddy, and another, Nasser Hussain, who was struggling to establish his place in this form of cricket.

Maddy batted at No. 5, a most difficult position in the limited overs game; he was out after making a nervous single from three balls faced

and was promptly dropped from the side. How will that help him when he opens the batting in the Edgbaston Test next week?

Ben Holloake was left out of the squad — a serious sin, this — and Gooch and Gatting have been less than supportive of his elder brother, Adam, despite his performance in Sharjah, where he proved an outstanding leader. He guided England to the trophy with a thoughtfully put-together collection of young all-rounders — whereupon the selectors, as if frightened by their daring departure from the well-trodden path, suddenly went back to Michael Atherton, a limited one-day player and a limited captain in any form of cricket, to take charge in the West Indies.

**I**F THAT is the mentality of the old professional, give me a young amateur any day. Old pros should have an important voice in English cricket but it should never be forgotten that they are partly responsible for getting us into this mess in the first place. The voice of imagination, of innovation and lateral thinking, is more important. When we are dealing with a modern side, as in England's case, it is absolutely vital.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors and a sup-

porter of Holloake, deserves much credit. Unlike Gatting, Gooch and Lloyd, he never played for England. He also wears more hats than a mad milliner. Yet, when the selectors meet this week to discuss Holloake's position, his may be the solitary voice of reason.

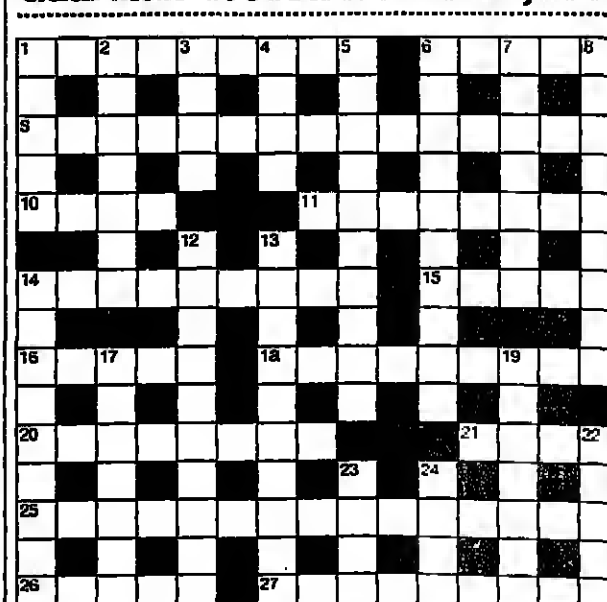
This is not to say that Holloake was blameless against South Africa, where his tactics were often uncharacteristically negative and formulaic. One-day cricket is, essentially, a defensive game but one in which pressure can still be applied, and Holloake made life too easy for South Africa in the first two matches. But he did win the final game and South Africa, unlike Australia, do not make a habit of throwing away dead rubbers.

Meanwhile those who have played under both Holloake and Stewart say, to a man, that the former is the better captain. A record of six victories in 12 outings is not bad for a skipper still wearing L-plaques. And continuity is important.

The selectors should repair the damage that they have inflicted on Holloake's confidence by naming him captain for next year's World Cup. Now. With the selectors behind him, Holloake should rediscover the self-belief that was so impressive in Sharjah.

### Guardian Crossword No 21,285

Set by Araucaria



**Across**

1 Ample form — Innate self-advertisement (4-5)  
6 Puzzle for model? (5)  
9 To give vicar a profit, split off glebe — nice try! (7,2,6)  
10 See 3  
11 Projector at the window, say, so I get my bearings? (8)  
14 Station on river whence flights go up (5-4)

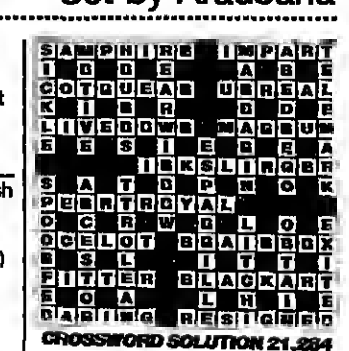
**Down**

15 One greenback in fountain (5)  
16 Game that's revolutionary on a ship (5)  
18 Remaining hard, unlike our 12? (8)  
20 Ties to strip of land on river (8)  
21,4 The hawks pervert the aesthetes (3,5)  
25 Manes went for the hard stuff (8,7)

26 Battle scene said to help drivers in the rain (5)  
27 Here's food for new art — art to Italy's first (9)

**Down**

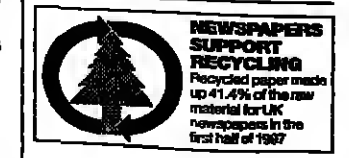
1 Rich man raised an old British coin (5)  
2 Paper money in West Africa, a sick man's arrangement (7)  
3,10 Advertise a dance that comes round from the ground (8)  
4 See 21  
5 It's easy to foster self-improvement (10)  
6 10 to 2 turning up somewhat alkaline — lying words! (8,4)  
7 Religious check on car for the Army, maybe (7)  
8 Selter's song lifted in part from palace to castle (5,4)  
12 These are disqualifications for the Dummow Fitch (10)  
13 Substance to treat my head, I agree — there's a decree about it (10)  
14 When the cricket continues at 1 for 86,400 (6,3)  
17 Penny increase, possibly, for the one that got away (7)  
19 Extremes in a pipe — there's very hot stuff in it (7)  
22 Old article from the 27 (5)  
23,24 The Judas of Roman Caerleon — disturbance follows (8)



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